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Palestinian Affairs

Khalaf: PLO To Reject Elections in U.S. Talks

JN1804190489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] today expected the United States to present the election plan in the occupied West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinian side during the next round of U.S.-PLO talks. Abu Iyad noted that the PLO will explain to the Americans why it rejects Shamir's proposal, which aims at implementing the self-rule plan that the Palestinian people have clearly rejected through their intifadah [uprising] and the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinians do not reject elections categorically, but refuse to organize elections under Israeli occupation, even if Washington presents definite guarantees to convince the PLO to accept such a measure.

Abu Iyad denied that the Fatah movement, or the PLO in general, have abandoned fedayeen operations. However, he said that priority in the present stage is given to the intifadah, which represents the best means to reach the cherished national aims.

Further on 'Arafat Speech at Tunis Seminar

'Arafat Asks Arabs for Aid

JN1804192789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr

[Text] Brothers: Brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state, PLO Executive Committee chairman, commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, called anew on the Arab countries to support the Palestinian people with all their resources because they are facing various forms of Israeli oppression. Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], yesterday evening in a speech in Tunis to a seminar for educated Arabs on "Revolution: From Steadfastness to Confrontation," urged the Arab countries that had not honored their financial pledges to the revolution, made after the emergency Arab summit in Algiers, to honor their commitments to support the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in confronting the occupation forces.

Brother Abu 'Ammar pointed out that the Arab countries decided in the Arab summit conference in Algiers to grant emergency aid amounting to $128 million and to allot monthly aid amounting to $42 million to ensure the continuation of the blessed intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

Abu 'Ammar pointed out the great support received by the Zionist enemy from its ally, the United States, which amounts to an annual $10.5 billion according to Washington, in addition to the indirect and successive aid in the form of facilities granted to this entity. He indicated that the total aid received by the Palestinian revolution from the Arab countries over the past 25 years has amounted to $1,000,160,000 [number as heard].

Brother Abu 'Ammar clarified the sufferings of the occupied territories and the requirements of the revolution in the form of the capability to support the families of the martyrs, injured, and detainees. As an example, he pointed out that hospitalizing the 5,000 Palestinians who have been handicapped by injuries during the revolution requires no less than $120 million.

Brother Abu 'Ammar affirmed that, despite material difficulties, because of familial integration among the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, the blessed revolution is continuing with the same force until it reaches its goals of ending the occupation and setting up the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territory.

Brother Abu 'Ammar criticized attempts to divide Palestinian ranks inside the occupied territories, pointing out that the Palestinians in all their groupings, whether Muslims or Christians, are struggling side by side in confronting the occupation forces on the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

U.S. Urged To 'Clarify' Stands

JN1804195289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1817 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The brother leader, President Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has called on the U.S. Administration and President George Bush to clarify their positions on the massacres being perpetrated against our defenseless Palestinian people in our occupied Palestinian territory. In a speech inaugurating the intifadah [uprising] symposium held on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the martyrdom of the symbol and commander, Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], the brother leader, President Abu 'Ammar, affirmed the need to expose the terrorist Zionist practices to quell the heroic intifadah of our great Palestinian people.

Confirms Dialogue Through U.S.

LD1904074189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, head of the State of Palestine, confirmed yesterday in Tunis the existence of direct dialogue [as heard] between the PLO and Israel through a third party, represented by the United States.

In a brief address yesterday evening to a seminar of the Palestinian uprising from steadfastness to confrontation, Yasir 'Arafat noted that the talks with the Israelis began through official dialogue between the PLO and the United States. He said that, in the last round of the dialogue, the U.S. side conveyed the Israeli views about

the peace process in the Middle East exactly as presented by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to U.S. officials during his recent visit to the United States.

Yasir 'Arafat added that the Americans have also conveyed the Palestinian views to the Israelis.

'Text' of Speech

JN1904110389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1829 GMT 18 Apr 89

["Text" of speech delivered by Yasir 'Arafat, "commander of our revolution and people and president of our independent Palestinian state," at the inauguration of the intifadah—uprising—symposium on the 1st anniversary of Khalil al-Wazir's martyrdom, in Tunis on 16 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Applause] Palestine, Palestine, Palestine, Palestine, Palestine. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God hath purchased of the believers their persons and their goods; for theirs in return is the garden of paradise. They fight in His cause and slay and are slain. A promise binding on Him in truth, through the law, the Gospel, and the Koran. And who is more faithful to his covenant than God? Then rejoice in the bargain which ye have concluded: This is the supreme achievement. [Koranic verses]

Brothers and beloved ones, allow me to thank the Tunisians, Palestinians, Arabs and friends, as well as my brother and beloved mujahid President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali on your behalf [applause]. I thank him, his brothers, and the Tunisian people for hosting our symposium, which includes the elite of thinkers of our Arab nation and our friends in the world. The symposium is to decide, not just with a passing speech, but with logical thinking and carefully studied planning, how to continue, how to continue, how to continue the blessed intifadah [uprising] of our people, and how to continue with this popular Palestinian Arab revolution until we all enter Jerusalem triumphantly, the capital of the State of Palestine, God willing. [applause]

My brothers, dear ones, on this day, which marks the anniversary of the beloved martyr and symbolic leader, we tell you, O Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and to all your brothers [words indistinct] and to tell the whole world that Palestine, which was lost at a cheap price, cannot be regained except with an expensive price and until there is a martyr or wounded person on every inch of its territory. [passage omitted]

Yes, O beloved Abu Jihad, you have gone, and the Zionists thought that by assassinating you they would be able to kidnap the revolution from the Palestinian people or quell the intifadah. However, those new generals, O Abu Jihad, whom you taught the course of struggle and revolution in our occupied territories, are now pursuing the march, continuing the intifadah, flying the flag over Palestine, and saying that this revolution has existed to survive, to triumph, to triumph, to triumph. [applause]

Yes, my brothers, this is the decision that was made regarding this Palestinian march, and this is the decision that was made by those new generals—the generals and RPG cubs, who are now standing fast in southern Lebanon and in our occupied territories. With the sacred stone, they harmonize with the RPG cubs to tell the whole world that this Palestinian revolution is a continuous, triumphant, and victorious revolution, God willing, until this Palestinian flag flutters high over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem, and to say that this Jerusalem is Arab, Arab, Arab whether Rabin, Peres, or Shamir like it or not. This land is Arab, Arab, Arab land. [applause]

Yes, my brothers and beloved ones, it is not a coincidence that while we are meeting today to renew allegiance to you, O beloved Abu Jihad, to the martyrs of the Palestinian revolution, and to the martyrs of our Arab nation and the liberation movements in the whole world—it is not a coincidence that while we are meeting today to stress, stress, and stress that he who examines the intifadah carefully will realize that Shamir will not be able to tame it with a plan, a test balloon, or a secret deal from here or there. You know my brothers, we now receive initiatives from all sides. Some tell us be moderates, others say please calm the intifadah, and others say let us see whether elections are useful or not.

Who said we are against elections? In the Palestinian revolution, we are proud of democracy. However, is it not my right to speak in the name of the unceasing river of blood in the Palestinian march? Is it not my right to ask who said we are against elections? We are for elections. However, is it possible for a free man in the whole world to accept elections under occupation?

I tell the U.S. White House and President Bush that I do not want you to give any better treatment to the strugglers in the Palestinian revolution and march than that you gave to Namibia. Regarding Namibia, you have said withdraw first, then elections will be held under the auspices of the United Nations. I say, come and conduct elections. I am for these elections. However, some Zionist or Zionized writers who write in certain U.S. or European newspapers say that we do not want elections. Who said we do not want elections? However, these elections should take place after the Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory.

At the same time, I agree, just as the Palestine National Council approved the initiative that I have declared in Geneva, on a transitional period. We accept it merely as a challenge [words indistinct] we accept a transitional period for 9 months under the auspices of the United Nations and in the presence of UN forces, with the condition that the Israeli forces should withdraw from Palestinian and Arab

territory, the Arab territory before the Palestinian one, and the Palestinian territory before the Arab territory. [as heard] [applause] [passage omitted]

PFLP's Al-Zibri on Elections, U.S. Stand

JN1804211989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1915 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 18 Apr (WAKH)—Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], PLO Executive Committee member and deputy secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has said that the popular intifadah [uprising], together with the parallel Palestinian political initiative, have so far had an important political impact.

In a statement published today by the AL-KHALIJ newspaper of Al-Shariqah, United Arab Emirates, he said that the gains are represented in international recognition of the Palestinian state and the UN vote in Geneva for a call to hold the international conference with the attendence of all parties, including the PLO.

He pointed out that the most prominent impact of the intifadah is the divisions it created among world Jewish organizations and the rifts it made in Israeli political decisionmaking.

On the Palestinian rejection of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's elections ideas, Mustafa said that if the elections seek to identify the representative of the Palestinian people, then they are useless because this representative is already known. He asked: Why then should we accept elections that aim at a self-rule that the Palestinian people reject?

Concerning the U.S. position on Shamir's proposals, the Palestinian official said: We were not surprised by this stand, because the United States does not support the declaration of a Palestinian state; its background, in fact, is based on preventing the realization of this aim by all means.

He stressed that the only method for changing the U.S. stand is the continuation of the intifadah. Without this, he said, the United States will stall for time, giving Israel the opportunity and time to oppress the intifadah and get out of its crisis.

Shamir Election Plans Termed 'Maneuvers'

JN1804203989 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1755 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Unattributed talk: "Yes to Elections After the End of Occupation; Yes to Elections Under International Legitimacy"]

[Text] Regardless of the number of maneuvers and attempts to abort the blessed intifadah [uprising] of our people—whether they come from Shamir, Washington, or any other parties—the Palestinian stand is very clear, well defined, and firm. Regardless of maneuvers and attempts to abort the intifadah, we loudly say: No elections under the occupation. The removal of occupation comes first; and the arbitration of international legitimacy is sought first.

We say to Washington—which is trying to show world public opinion that it is holding the stick in the middle and that it is trying to play the role of arbitrator, not opponent—we are more concerned with holding elections in our occupied homeland. However, we reiterate our categorical rejection of the rigged elections and the plan, which seems on the surface to be a concession on the part of the opponent while it aims only at destroying our people's objectives, represented by their freedom, independence, and right to self-determination.

Shamir's objectives are declared; they are based outright on the categorical rejection of peace in Palestine and the Middle East. And on the other hand, our objectives are declared. Washington accurately knows our objectives. Our objectives are based on the need to achieve peace in Palestine and the Middle East.

If Washington has a genuine aspiration for peace in the region, it should seek to achieve what President Bush voiced support for and agreed to—that is, to end the occupation of our occupied territory. When this abominable, fascist occupation is removed, the real horizons for peace will be opened wide. Every sound person and those who do not hatch conspiracies can clearly see that the elections and occupation are opponents that cannot converge and that democracy and occupation are also opponents that cannot converge.

Washington knows that all of this is trial balloons whose objective is to falsify the clear will of our Palestinian people. Our people are sacrificing everything to achieve this will. Our people will achieve this regardless of the price.

As South Africa was forced to remove its racist occupation of the Namibian people and as democratic elections were held under UN supervision in accordance with international legitimacy, and as Washington was forced on this road in Namibia, it will be forced and it will force its protege Israel on this road. Then, we will hold our elections, elect our representatives, and establish our institutions—the institutions of the independent Palestinian state. And everything else is no more than plowing in the sea.

Palestinian Delegation 'Ready' To Visit Syria

JN1804205889 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 1, 21

[Excerpts] Tunis—Aden—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—A Palestinian official affirmed to AL-ITTIHAD's correspondent in Tunis that a Palestinian delegation consisting of PLO Executive Committee members is now ready to go to Damascus to begin serious discussions with the Syrian leadership to solve the conflicts between the two sides.

Dr Jamil Hilal, information director in the PLO's Information Department, explained that this delegation will represent the various fronts and factions under the PLO banner. He pointed out that there are positive indicators for the success of the Algerian initiative on this matter. [passage omitted]

In Aden, Salah Khalaf, alias Aby Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, declared that PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi will visit Damascus after the holy 'Id al-Fitr [approximately 7 May] to prepare for Palestinian State head Yasir 'Arafat's planned visit to the Syrian capital, Damascus.

In a telephone conversation with AL-ITTIHAD's correspondent in Aden, Abu Iyad clarified that the Algerian and Soviet mediation to re-establish Syrian relations with the PLO had started to yield results. He added that the next meeting between Qaddumi and Syrian officials will be decided when the PLO receives an invitation from the Syrian leadership on this topic. Contacts, on the other hand, are being held on an extraordinary Arab summit in Morocco directly after 'Id al-Fitr. The major points on its agenda will be revising the financial aspects of the Algiers summit resolutions to support the intifadah [uprising] in occupied Palestine.

In Algiers, Munthir al-Dajani, ambassador of the State of Palestine to Algeria, stated that the PLO is working honestly and seriously to render the mediation by the Algerian brothers between the PLO and Syria a success. [passage omitted]

Islamic Resistance Movement Issues Statement

JN1804211189 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Statement No 40, issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine—Hamas—was distributed in Ramallah yesterday.

The statement affirmed that the Nahhalin massacre is a new testimony to the massacres being perpetrated by the Zionists, the killers of prophets and mankind's bloodsuckers. The statement said: O sons of our kinfolk in Palestine, Your blessed intifadah [uprising] is continuing, and the jihad is continuing with the emergence of daylight on each day of this blessed month. Your enemy's confusion and bewilderment continue to be maintained in the face of your sacred attacks and stones, taking the bitterness of the failure to undermine your giant resolve, which is derived from your faith and sacrifices. Nowadays, this enemy is perpetrating a new massacre in the heroic and patient village of Nahhalin—a massacre to be added to its record, which is replete with such massacres.

The statement issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement addressed our kinfolk in Nahhalin saying: The chaste blood of your sons will remain a light that will burn the enemies and illuminate the road of jihad. Our consolation in this is that paradise will be the abode of our martyrs, while those killed among the enemy ranks will rest in hellfire. And God hath full power and control over His affairs; but most among mankind know it not. Only God is our support, as he is the best support. [parts of two Koranic verses]

The statement called on the faithful in Palestine to mark the night of power [Al-Qadr] at the Al-Aqsa mosque, the symbol of unity for Muslims, the first qiblah [prayer direction], and the third holiest shrine, which is held dear to the hearts of Muslims throughout the world. The statement also called on our people to defend the sanctity of mosques and confront the American Zionists, who seek to desecrate the sanctity of holy places.

As for zakat [alms tax] tithes, and 'Id al-Fitr, the statement reminded our kinfolk that God sanctioned 'Id al-Fitr to be marked by those who fast well, pray to God in the best possible manner, and wage jihad with their lives and wealth to further the cause of God. Besides, God decreed that this feast be marked, as it is an occasion for showing solidarity and strengthening ties with relatives. So, let us make this day a day for strengthening ties with relatives and also for showing sympathy with the poor and their offspring. Let us demonstrate sympathy to the orphans, the sons of martyrs, and the sons of detainees. Let us show solidarity with the wounded. Let us honor on this day the mothers of martyrs, detained, and their families.

Statement No 40 issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement saluted the honest merchants and factory owners who responded favorably to the calls issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement, which asked them to be content with small profit and to boycott Zionist commodities.

The statement also hailed doctors and pharmacists for their alleviation of the burdens on citizens regarding the examination fees and medicine prices to help bolster our people's steadfastness and strengthen the fraternal ties among the sons of the people.

As for popular education, the statement affirmed the need to preserve the educational march and called for decisively confronting those who seek to distort and undermine the educational march at schools in the Gaza Strip. The statement also asserted the importance of the education provided at mosques and at home, using all available means.

In conclusion, the statement called for implementing the following activities:

1. Confrontations, an escalation of resistance, and challenge are to be demonstrated on Wednesday, 13 Ramadan, corresponding to 19 April, to mark the anniversary of the eruption of the 1936 revolution.

2. Confrontations, an escalation of resistance, and challenge are to be displayed on Sunday, 17 Ramadan, corresponding to 23 April, to mark the anniversary of the Badr conquest [launched by Prophet Muhammad against the infidels].

3. A general strike must be staged on Wednesday, 20 Ramadan, corresponding to 26 April, to mark the anniversary of the fall of Mecca to Muslims.

4. The anniversary of the 'Ayn Jalut battle must be marked at mosques on Sunday, 24 Ramadan, corresponding to 30 April, the day on which Muslims triumphed over the Tartars and Crusaders, enemies of God.

5. The night of power must be marked at the Al-Aqsa mosque. The statement called on Muslims in Palestine to head for the Al-Aqsa mosque on the occasion.

Statement No 40 issued by the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, called on all commercial stores to open their doors before the public throughout Friday, 29 Ramadan, corresponding to 5 May, to mark the day preceding the blessed 'Id al-Fitr to make it easy for the Muslim masses to buy their necessary requirements on that day.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement in Palestine, Hamas.

[Dated] 11 Ramadan 1409 Hegira [18 April 1989]

Egypt

Abu Ghazalah, Abu Talib Appointments Discussed

JN1804204889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 3

[Samir Rajab article: "An Answer to the Question: A Change of Persons, or a Continuation of Life?"]

[Text] Yesterday, people gathered in Cairo's Tawfiq Street, where General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib resides, to congratulate him on his first day in his new job as minister of defense and war production.

To tell the truth, the new minister enjoys immense popularity, which he earned during his work as governor of Cairo. He is famous for his field tours, meetings with citizens, and interest in hearing their views and urging them to take part in public action.

Moreover, Abu Talib has the skill to follow up his work and the ability to organize his ideas and completely grasp the projects that he supervises. I believe that Cairo's bridges, tunnels, and parks are the best proof of this.

Therefore, Abu Talib's appointment as defense minister is the result of his tremendous achievements during his previous job in addition to his illustrious military career and rare military talents.

Since the issuance of the presidential decree appointing Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah assistant to the president and General Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib minister of defense and war production, questions by average Egyptians have been rife and speculations and guesswork increasing. In my opinion, such questions are a true indicator of the Egyptian citizen's interest in his country's politics. It is real proof of this citizen's political maturity. This in itself is an affirmation of the fact that the governor and the governed are a single, indivisible body.

Perhaps we remember that when President Husni Mubarak took over in 1981, many voices were raised demanding changes in all walks of life in Egypt. The president was frank and clear, and he repeated on many occasions that change is a way of life, that it comes spontaneously when circumstances require it, and that it will not be beneficial if it takes place just for the sake of change.

Undoubtedly, each historical phase has its own specifications and requirements. Over the past years, President Mubarak has made some changes aimed at promoting the Egyptian people's interest. In his policy, the president does not care about anyone's capricious or personal desires. He is careful to give full oppotunity to anyone who has the zeal for service and who spares no effort to serve his homeland. The president then leaves practical experience to set the standard and be the objective judge. In many cases, the president reaches a certain conclusion but postpones a decision until he is certain that all its dimensions have been taken care of, that it has been studied from all sides, and that the climate is ready and the ground prepared.

Changing personnel is not important to the president. What is important is laying firm foundations and bases for improving performance and developing work in this or that position.

At the same time, the president takes care to personally follow up the activities and abilities of the selected person, without relying on reports or files. He measures accurately this person's readiness to work in the public interest rather than his own. The president uses his great skill in finding the sacrifices that this selected official can unstintingly give in Egypt's cause.

Egypt has decided to entrench the pillars of peace in the Middle East regardless of the circumstances and obstacles. It also spares no effort to search for solutions to the problem of world debt. At the same time, it is concerned about supporting its African role and promoting its European, Asian, and American relations.

All this will not prevent it from waging fierce domestic battles against man's problems, population growth, and importing food. It also bravely faces attempts to weaken democracy and to harm freedom and the supremacy of law. Egypt has begun a new experience, the experience of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], which requires continuous effort to become a real entity that can achieve the goals for which it was established.

Hence, it was necessary for the president to have a number of aides, who realize the nature of the phase of progress we are experiencing on domestic and foreign levels. These aides should be able to carry out their missions accurately and properly.

Therefore, Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah was selected to be an aide to the president. Abu Ghazalah is experienced in political action, although he was at the top of the Armed Forces. He closely followed up Egypt's foreign moves to bring about peace as well as efforts to establish the ACC.

Following Abu Ghazalah's appointment, it was necessary to find a man to replace him, a man of efficiency, discipline, experience in military affairs, and political insight, a man who has succeeded in every duty assigned to him. This man is Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib.

By this, President Mubarak demonstrates that he will always believe in what he does, that his policy is firm, that Egypt to him is a dear goal, and that any change should serve Egypt's national interests—a change that comes at the proper time because it is the law of life.

Fundamentalist Blames Badr for Al-Fayyum Riot
NC1804172889 Paris AFP in English 1651 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, April 18 (AFP)—The parliamentary leader of an Islamic fundamentalist group charged Tuesday [18 April] that Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr provoked a confrontation earlier this month at an oasis south of here between police and fundamentalists.

Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, head of the Moslem Brotherhood parliamentary group, maintained that contrary to police accounts there had been no antigovernment demonstration following Friday prayers at a mosque in Al-Fayyum, some 100 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Cairo.

Reports in Egypt's semi-official press said demonstrators, on leaving the mosque, shot firearms and threw stones at police after Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd al-Rahman urged worshippers to "demonstrate against the ruling regime."

But Mr al-Hudaybi asserted that the trouble began only after police tried to arrest Shaykh 'Umar, spiritual guide to the Moslem extremist group Al-Jihad.

Police arrested 36 people on April 7 and, according to General Badr, nearly 1,000 extremists in all have now been taken into custody in connection with the Al-Fayyum disturbances.

By provoking such confrontations, according to Mr al-Hudaybi, Gen Badr was "appeasing his desire to arrest thousands of innocent people."

He also dismissed as "ridiculous and regrettable" statements made by Gen Badr earlier this week that Moslem extremists are in effect a secret assassination branch of the Moslem Brotherhood.

The Brotherhood, which although illegal is tolerated in Egypt, advocates the implementation of shari'ah, or Islamic law, but by peaceful means. It is represented in parliament by a coalition of two opposition parties.

AL-WAFD: Prices for Food Rise During Ramadan
JN1804212589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 1

[By Tal'at al-Tarabishi]

[Text] A report from the Al-Jizah Chamber of Commerce affirmed that prices of all foodstuffs rose 20 to 40 percent during the 1st week of Ramadan. The report revealed that the supply of commodities in shops and groceries has decreased, especially sugar, oil, and rice. The report affirmed the rise in the price of 1 kg of linseed oil from 80 to 235 piasters, 1 kg of imported cooking oil from 9 to 10.5 pounds, canned sauces weighing 170 grams from 55 to 105 piasters, and a carton of eggs from 270 to 390 piasters.

The report indicated the presence of a dangerous shortage of pasta for production in both the private and public sectors. The price of 1 kg of imported live or slaughtered poultry also rose from 260 to 300 piasters.

Price Increase Attributed to Banknote Printing
JN1704202989 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] According to an economic source, the recent price increase and drop in the exchange rate of the Egyptian pound against the dollar was due to the fact that the government printed 4 billion pounds over the past year to cover the budget deficit. The source expected a continued drop in the pound's value during the forthcoming stage because the government is continuing its printing of new banknotes this year.

Soviet Envoy Cited on Economic Cooperation
NC1804190289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev stated that his country is in the process of giving Egypt long-term soft government loans. The main purpose of these will be to to finance heavy industry projects, he added. He said that agreement will be reached on the projects that the Soviet Union will finance through the joint Soviet-Egyptian committee which will hold its first meeting in Cairo on 10 May.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Zhuravlev said that the Soviet Union suspended this type of loan to Egypt in 1977. In 1989, the Soviet Union gave Egypt commercial loans to finance certain contracts. He stressed that the Soviet Union and Egypt have declared more than once that they have resumed their bilateral military cooperation and noted that this means a political decision was made in this respect. He pointed out that three contracts on exporting spare parts for Soviet weapons to Egypt were signed during the past 2 years.

Zhuravlev went on to say that there are other forms of military cooperation, such as the export to Egypt of large transport trucks and helicopters that can be used for military or civilian purposes. He noted, however, that both countries are still in the initial stage regarding the resumption of cooperation in the military field.

Concerning the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Soviet committee on economic and trade cooperation, Zhuravlev said that the committee's first session will last for 1 week and that two subcommittees, one for economic cooperation and one for trade, will be formed. He said that the Soviet Union will propose the formation of a permanent working group specialized in scientific and technological cooperation. He emphasized his country's desire to expand and strengthen this type of cooperation.

Zhuravlev asserted that a great development has occurred in the promotion of economic and trade cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union. He expressed hope that the next few years will witness further advances in this domain. He noted that a delegation of Soviet experts will arrive in Cairo this week to prepare for the joint committee's meetings and to study the establishment of joint companies, with Soviet-Egyptian capital, for the manufacture of clothing and other commodities for export to the Soviet Union and marketing in Egypt. He noted the importance of this, and said this is the first time that the Soviet Union has engaged in such a project.

On the projects to be defined and agreed upon during the meetings of the joint committee's first session, the Soviet ambassador said that there is a project to expand and modernize the Hulwan iron and steel plant and to increase its production capacity from 1.5 million tons to 3 million tons annually. There is also a project to modernize and enlarge the aluminum manufacturing plant in Naj' Hammadi and to increase its productivity by 30 percent annually. Moreover, a power station will be built in the area to provide the plant with the necessary electricity.

The Soviet ambassador added that there are plans to build two factories to produce plate glass. One of these glass factories will be set up in 10 Ramadan city and will have a production capacity of 100,000 square meters of glass. The phosphate production project in Abu Turtur will be modernized. A power generating plant with power lines and transformers will be built in 'Uyun Musa. A port will be built in Umm al-Fahm.

The Soviet ambassador said that Egypt has submitted a proposal on the possibility of Soviet participation in constructing the second phase of the Cairo metro. He said that his country is currently studying the technical and engineering aspects of the project.

The ambassador said that all the loans agreed upon to finance the Egyptian projects will be settled by barter. He denied that there were problems of overdue debts between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

He referred to the signing of the letter of intent between Egypt and the Soviet Union on the restoration of cooperation in the fields of energy, electricity, and iron and steel.

The Soviet ambassador stressed that the question of trade between the two countries will be high on the agenda of the upcoming meetings of the Egyptian-Soviet committee. He said that since 1988 the two countries have reverted to the practice of signing medium-term protocols. He noted that under the 3-year protocol signed in 1988 trade between the two countries will increase by 50 percent. He also noted that the two countries desire to increase trade between them to reach 1 billion pounds sterling instead of the current 600 million pounds sterling.

The Soviet ambassador indicated that the trade balance between the two countries is in Egypt's favor and that this matter will be taken up in the upcoming meeting. He also referred to some obstacles hindering trade between the two countries. In this respect, he spoke about a law issued in 1978, when relations were passing through a difficult period, according to him. He said that this law restricts the number of Egyptian companies doing business with the Soviet Union. An Egyptian company that wishes to import from or export from the Soviet Union requires a special permit from the Egyptian Ministry of Trade and International Cooperation, he said.

Al-Baz Conveys Mubarak's Message to King Husayn

NC1604052089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2240 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, 15 Apr (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of President Husni Mubarak's Office for Political Affairs, conveyed a message to His Majesty King Husayn from President Mubarak when the Jordanian monarch received him this evening in the company of Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine.

According to some sources, the message deals with developments in the Arab world and a number of Arab topics of common interest. The message also falls within the context of the joint consultations and coordination between President Mubarak and King Husayn with a view to unifying the two countries' positions.

Mubarak Sends Messages to Fahd, Qatari Amir

NC1804215089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent two written messages to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani. Sayyid al-Qasim, Egyptian ambassador to Riyadh, today delivered the first message during a meeting with Saudi foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. 'Isam al-Din Muhammad Hawwas, Egypt's ambassador to Qatar, handed the second message to the Qatari Amir.

The messages are within the context of continued consultations between Egypt and its Arab sisters concerning developments in the Arab and Islamic arenas and the efforts being exerted to reach a just and lasting Middle East peace. The messages also deal with the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, as well as bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in all domains.

Commentary Urges Stiff Measures To Combat Drugs

NC1704195389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Bahiy al-Din Sh'ayb commentary: "Utmost Deterrent Measures To Combat Drugs"]

[Excerpts] One of the serious issues currently preoccupying every citizen is the spread of white poison among certain circles of Egyptians. We mean youths, students, and cultured people of both sexes. [passage omitted]

In our view, the proliferation of drugs is due to the following two important factors:

One, individuals emerged who found out that trading in these poisons is the quickest way to get rich. According to common stories in society, certain people see nothing wrong in embarking on a drug deal worth several million so that later they can begin an export and import career, when they then ask for god's forgiveness and repent. There are tales that the number of people who became rich overnight in Egypt is proof of the truth of this theory because no one can become so rich in such a short time unless he is a drug dealer.

Two, there was an increase in the number of people who have made money without any effort. The accumulated wealth of these people motivated them to indulge in illegal pleasure, infecting their sons, daughters, and close associates. [passage omitted]

The state, represented by the police force, performs its duty by closing the gaps through which drugs flow into Egypt and by laying ambushes for dealers in this illegal activity. However, the police efforts are insufficient. The temptation of fast and easy wealth prompts many people to trade in drugs and to invent new ways of smuggling. National duty dictates that we all deal with this epidemic more seriously. Every one of us must consider himself vulnerable and thus must not cover up anyone who deals with these poisons, but promptly notify the responsible authorities. [passage omitted]

The government is currently preparing a new drug law that hands out stiffer sentences to drug dealers and addicts, from jail to execution. We want to say that the current treatment of drug cases in ordinary courts has proved ineffective. We believe that large segments of the Egyptian public are calling for special trials of drug cases, as routine measures render deterrents useless. Everyone must feel that the issue is important and that smugglers, traders, and addicts are in the same boat and deserve the harshest possible punishment. We must get rid of these cancerous elements that destroy the moral and economic fiber of society.

Commentary Criticizes Israeli Repression

NC1504153389 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 15 Apr 89

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Israeli Massacres Will Not Frighten the Palestinian People"]

[Text] How long will the civilized world remain a spectator to the massacres which Israel has perpetrated daily for more than 17 months against unarmed civilians in the villages and towns of occupied Palestine? The latest such act is the hideous massacre which the Israeli border guard forces carried out against the residents of the Nahhalin Village near Bethlehem which resulted in the martyrdom of 7 Palestinians and seriously injured more than 50 others. Furthermore, what is the United Nations' position on these serious violations of Palestinian human rights?

The United Nations is responsible for defending residents of territories who suffer the yoke of foreign occupation. What are the positions of the United States and the countries of West Europe which advocate the defense of human rights against such ugly crimes being perpetrated against women and children who are demanding an end to Israeli occupation of their national soil? Are the statements of international denunciation and condemnation sufficient to punish Israel who has turned a deaf ear to such statements, indeed to UN resolutions, for more than 40 years?

Numerous questions pass through the minds of the political analysts who follow Middle East developments in light of the international and regional moves to resolve this chronic crisis. As an attempt to answer these questions, we say that direct responsibility for Israel's policy of repression and its excessive use of inhuman violence against the Palestinians does not fall on Israel's shoulders alone; it is borne by the entire international community, particularly by those world powers who support Israel despite their ability to force Israel to abandon its persistently hostile policy in the region. Consequently, the international community, notably Washington and West Europe, must move more effectively to promote peace efforts and persuade Israel to accept the Palestinian peace challenge.

The Nahhalin massacre, the subsequent Israeli measures in Arab Jerusalem which prevented worshipers from performing prayers, the isolation of the Gaza Strip from the outside world, the imposition of curfews in Hebron and Nabulus, and the prevention of journalists from reporting this ugly situation and from exposing Israel to the world all prove an important fact—that Israel has grown impatient with the Palestinian peace siege, which the international community supports, and wants to find a pretext to ruin the peace process. These events also prove that Shamir's plan and his statements about peace and elections that are intended to choose Palestinian representatives for negotiations are merely attempts to divert the international public from the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] and Israel's inability to confront it. What is regrettable is that Shamir describes the PLO as a terrorist group, refuses to deal with it, and wants the world to believe him.

We would have imagined, now that the entire world has heard the Palestinian people's voice seeking salvation and peace, that Shamir would try to build a bridge of trust with the people of Palestine, prior to holding a constructive and direct dialogue under UN auspices and through an international conference, in order to attain the security and stability of all parties. That Shamir would, however, step up his repressive measures and then speak of peace—what peace is it then that he wants? [sentence as heard]

Does Shamir want to provoke the Paletinians into carrying out a retaliatory act in response to the Israeli massacres? Or does he want the PLO to abandon its current realistic and sober policy and then try to pressure Washington to change its current encouraging position on the Palestinian issue? The U.S. position urges an end to Israeli occupation and for the first time refers to the Palestinians' political rights.

Political maneuvers will no longer deceive anyone. Likewise the escalation of repression and the carrying out of massacres will not stop the Palestinian intifadah because it is a spontaneous popular revolution. What is truly wrong is to persist in the unlimited bloodshed and firing of bullets at innocent people. Patience has its limits and the people of Palestine will not be able to remain inactive forever while the Israeli massacres continue.

Commentary Notes U.S. 'Balanced Stand' on PLO

NC1404173689 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Mamduh Isma'il commentary: "The Fact-Revealing Coincidence Between the Nahhalin Massacre and Shamir's So-Called Elections in the Occupied Territories"]

[Text] When Yitzhaq Shamir met with President Bush in Washington, the U.S. President called on the Israeli prime minister to take steps to curb tension in the occupied Palestinian territories. Only a few days after this American request, the entire world was horrified by the atrocious massacre the Israeli occupation authorities committed against the Nahhalin village inhabitants in the West Bank. Israeli troops fired indiscriminately at the inhabitants, killing and wounding scores. This massacre has triggered outbursts of anger and wrath in all towns and villages in the occupied territories.

The events take on a political dimension, not only by uncovering the Israeli prime minister's deception and maneuvers at the expense of Palestinian blood, but also by revealing a new dimension in U.S. policy on the Arab-Israeli dispute. This dimension is made clear by the U.S. State Department statement issued a few hours before the massacre. The statement asserts that the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] uses stones in its acts of civilian disobedience against the occupation. The statement also asserts that the intifadah has no links to terrorism and, for the first time, it takes the PLO off the list of countries and organizations accused of terrorism.

Linking the Nahhalin village massacre and the U.S. statement, we note unmistakable, serious indications. It seems as though the U.S. statement was an advance warning to Israel before it committed the crime and a frank condemnation of the unethical, violent, and repressive policies used against the occupied territories' inhabitants. These indications supplement previous stands announced by the U.S. Administration during President Mubarak's visit to Washington. Together these stands and indications become a warning to Israel, telling it that regional and international changes can no longer tolerate maneuver and deception, and that the time has ended for Israel to be spoiled at the expense of others' rights.

The worst thing about the fact-revealing coincidence between the Nahhalin massacre and Shamir's proposals to hold elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is that pressing questions result. For example, how can these elections be held in an atmosphere of hostility and distrust, as the people are choking with bitterness? If Shamir truly wants to hold these elections, though we are sure that he only aims to contain the courageous intifadah, is he paving the way for them by the Nahhalin massacre?

Any analyst or observer of the balanced stands of the United States, from the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue to the U.S. State Department statement, can easily conclude that when accepting the concept of elections, the U.S. Administration believed that they would be a step, to be followed by others, leading to a final settlement of the West Bank and Gaza Strip issue. This is what Shamir did not commit himself to during his meeting with President Bush. This proves true the interpretation that these elections are mere municipal privileges in the occupied territories.

Moreover, the U.S. Administration is fully aware that Israel will ultimately have to hold negotiations with the PLO. U.S. Secretary of State James Baker confirmed this when he said: If Israel fails to find negotiators from within the occupied territories, it will have to negotiate with the PLO.

Israel is undoubtedly going through a stage of political imbalance because, this time, its friend and ally is the one tightening the rope around its neck. Furthermore, the voice of Senator Lee Hamilton in the U.S. Congress, which holds the card of U.S. assistance to Israel, afflicts Shamir and those who share his intransigence with chronic fear.

Through an active and persistent role, and guided by coordination at the Arab level, support at the European level, and harmony and understanding at the American level, the Egyptian leadership has contributed to making this rope which can only be cut by a just and honorable peace.

Editorial Welcomes Change

JN1604151889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 14 Apr 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Amman Summit and the U.S. Stance"]

[Text] The meeting between Mubarak and Husayn that took place in Amman the day before yesterday came within the framework of the serious Arab moves to employ the positive regional and international developments for the benefit of pushing forward the cause of peace in the Middle East.

This meeting is particularly important because it came after President Mubarak's successful visit to Washington during which he met with the new U.S. President, George Bush, while King Husayn is preparing for a similar visit in a few days.

Clearly, the Mubarak and Husayn talks centered in the first place on developments of the Palestine question in light of the outcome of President Mubarak's Washington visit. They also dealt with the role that will be played by King Husayn during his talks with U.S. officials to reinforce the positive results achieved so far and show the strength, unity, and coherence of the Arab stand.

What is certain now is that there are positive changes in the U.S. stand which emerged clearly during President Mubarak's talks in Washington. Based on these changes, King Husayn's efforts and endeavors will proceed with centers of U.S. decisionmaking to reinforce Arab and Palestinian rights.

Among the most important achievements scored during Mubarak's talks in Washington was to achieve an Egyptian-U.S. agreement on the impossibility of accepting the status quo in the occupied Arab territories and on the need to find a quick, just, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis. It is expected that King Husayn will reaffirm the same firm stands which President Mubarak told to the U.S. Administration. These are represented in the need to expedite the convening of an international conference for peace attended by all sides to the conflict.

He will also affirm that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and that time must not be wasted in searching for an alternative to the PLO, as demanded by Shamir, or in dividing the Palestinians into those inside and outside [the occupied territories] because they all, as proven by events, consider the PLO the sole legitimate channel. In addition to this, no one can call for stopping the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] except through a serious move that can contribute to convince the Palestinian people that resolution is on the way.

What is also certain is that King Husayn will repeat the same assertions of which President Mubarak informed the U.S. President—that the Palestinians will find it difficult to accept any elections under occupation and that Israel must negotiate with the PLO under the canopy of the international conference.

We believe that King Husayn's forthcoming visit to the U.S. capital has many chances for success following the many positive changes that became clear during President Bush's administration. It became clear that the United States became convinced that the PLO is one of the Palestinian sides with which it can negotiate. This is proven by its interest to continue the dialogue with it despite Israeli pressures.

We must say that for the first time, the United States has clearly affirmed, during Mubarak's visit, the importance of resolving the Middle East crisis through many principles that the Arabs accept. These are guaranteeing the Palestinian people's rights, abiding by UN Resolution 242, and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The only reservation about the new U.S. stand is represented by its refusal to accept the establishment of a Palestinian state.

We believe that U.S. opposition to the idea of a Palestinian state is not Washington's final word, and that it is merely a negotiating tactic. We can only explain the U.S. pronouncement about guaranteeing the Palestinian people's political rights, which was made in parallel with the U.S. declaration about guaranteeing Israel's security, as expressing the conviction that there are two peoples whose security must be guaranteed through two states that coexist together according to the principles of justice, peace, and international legitimacy.

AL-MUSAWWAR on IMF, USAID Talks

JN1604211089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Apr 89 pp 7, 8

[Text] The AL-MUSAWWAR political editor has learned that the exploratory talks undertaken by the Egyptian economic delegation during its Washington talks with IMF officials and the U.S. Agency for International Development [USAID] have resulted in an agreement on many guidelines, the details of which will be discussed with the IMF delegation scheduled to arrive in Cairo within the coming 2 weeks. Agreement was also reached on forming a joint U.S.-Egyptian committee, whose members are now being chosen, to discuss Egypt's problems with the U.S. aid.

1. Regarding the IMF Talks:

Agreement was reached on the need for both sides—Egypt and the IMF—to reach a full agreement on the problems raised between them before next July in a manner that will allow Egypt to make a new letter of intentions. This letter of intentions will specify the new Egyptian program for reform and allow the IMF to issue a letter of guarantee before June according to which Egypt can begin a second round of talks with the Paris Club to reschedule the installments of debt due on Egypt in 1988.

During the talks, Egypt made clear that the scope of its new program for economic reforms will be broader than the IMF's plan, which concentrates only on certain financial and monetary reforms that aim to reduce deficits in the budget by changing prices, cutting expenditure, and increasing revenues by imposing new taxes. Egypt's viewpoint is that these steps will lead to retrenchment which will affect the development process.

Therefore, from an Egyptian perspective, the reform plan must deal in the first place with the production policies by giving new incentives to producers and encouraging the

private and public sectors' initiatives so that production can grow in a manner that will allow the Egyptian market to achieve more control over price hikes.

Egypt also explained that the IMF's demand to reduce the budget deficit from 11 billion to around 6 billion pounds may be impossible and exceeds the Egyptian economy's limits at the current time. Therefore, Egypt believes that, with a specific program, it can reduce the budget deficit by about 3.5 or 4 billion pounds this year.

The AL-MUSAWWAR political editor has learned that there is a strong possibility that a compromise can be reached on the IMF's other demands regarding increasing the interest rate on savings and standarizing the exchange rate, especially since the two sides have agreed to continue the subsidiary on basic commodities—sugar, oil, bread, and wheat—based on the central bank's rate of exchange of the dollar at 70 piasters for the dollar, provided that the volume of this subsidiary does not exceed the revenues from the Suez Canal (1.2 billion pounds a year).

The editor has further learned that differences remain over raising the exchange rate for customs duties where the dollar is computed at 190 piasters.

In any case, Egypt and the IMF are at one on the need for a readjustment of salaries and wages to lessen the burdens inherent in economic reforms on low income groups.

2. Regarding the Talks With USAID:

Agreement has been reached on raising the credit volume for Egypt in the program of encouraging American exports to the tune of $150 million to cover the cost of wheat imports to meet the astounding increase in Egyptian consumption.

The editor has also learned that Egypt asked that $400 million of the projects program be diverted to the goods import program, especially given that approximately $2 billion has been allocated to projects yet to be implemented for reasons to do with red tape and legislative restrictions on the American aid program. This is in addition to a lack of sufficient flexibility in the program to let Egypt receive maximum benefit thereof.

Egypt is known to have demanded 2 years ago that spending from the projects program ($500 million annually) be on a sectoral basis allowing for funds allocated for a given project to be diverted to another one of the same sector if it should become clear to the Egyptian and American sides that the project may not bring forth much benefit to Egypt.

The preliminary talks point to an American conviction of the need for a review of the projects program, particularly since close to $2 billion are set aside for projects that have proven impossible to implement. This means that the benefit reaped by Egypt from the program does not exceed 10 percent of the program ($500 million annually).

The editor has further learned that in their talks with the Americans, the Egyptians stressed the need for lifting the freeze on $230 million representing the monetary volume of the American aid program in 1988 and 1989.

There is an initial agreement between the Egyptian and American aides on lifting the embargo on half the sum ($115 million) within the context of Egypt's commitment to implementing part of its economic reform program provided that the remainder be released following Egypt's signing of its agreement with the IMF.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks had stayed behind in Washington for 2 days after the end of President Mubarak's visit to the United States to follow up talks with the IMF and USAID.

Columnist Views Loans, Aid

JN1604174089 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 14 Apr 89 p 11

[By Majid 'Atiyah]

[Text] An Egyptian economic team comprising Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, state minister for cabinet affairs, and Dr Maurice Makramallah, state minister for economic cooperation, is now back home after arduous talks with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. They had been preceded back home by Central Bank Governor Dr Salah Hafiz, who held talks with the IMF and the bank.

The Egyptian team, which had gone to Washington ahead of President Mubarak and stayed behind after his departure, had met with U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, USAID Director Rhodes [name as published]; World Bank Deputy President Tollitzer [name as published], and IMF Executive Director Dr 'Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan.

The Egyptian delegation carried a fat file on Egypt's ties with the three agencies: USAID, the IMF, and the World Bank. The Egyptian file featured the economic reform progress in Egypt over several years and noted that Egypt has covered substantial ground along that road despite the inconvenience caused to low-income groups and Egypt's concern to cushion them from the repercussions of abrupt reform.

The major bone of contention between Egypt and the IMF centered on the timeframe of executing the "second program" of reform, with the IMF arguing that Egypt is capable of implementing it in a brief period and Egypt advocating a gradualist approach that better lends itself to social stability. That much was made clear by President Mubarak to the chamber of commerce. Yet, all the parties there were already convinced of the IMF viewpoint.

Although the negotiations have produced a narrowing of the gap between them and the general principles included in Egypt's new letter of intent, there remain certain details to be sorted out at negotiations slated for the end of this month or maybe after 'Id al-Fitr.

The Egyptian delegation brought up the issue of using available loans that have yet to be deployed due to some obstacles raised by the American side and the World Bank or because these loans were tied to projects that are behind schedule; hence, Egypt's request that it be given leewway in utilizing these loans.

—There is approximately $2 billion of the U.S. aid that has not been utilized.

—The use of approximately $1 billion from the World Bank is in suspension.

—There is the $230 million of monetary aid that has been frozen for the past 2 years.

—There is an outstanding Egyptian request for an urgent $230 million loan to buy wheat and flour.

—There is the second $160 million installment of an IMF loan that has yet to be released.

—And there is the burden of $4.5 billion of military debts that are being paid off at the rate of $500 million annually. Throughout the talks, the Egyptian team was hard pressed coming to terms with the IMF.

Having heard the Egyptian ideas and proposed programs, all sides became convinced of the need for prompt action to meet the Egyptian demands. The negotiations have produced satisfactory results. Examples:

—The U.S. Administration promised to revoke the decision of freezing the monetary aid, and the sum is likely to be released in two installments in July 1989.

—Release of $950 million of the unutilized American aid in the sectors of tourism, energy, agriculture, and industry as soon as the pertinent agreement with the IMF is reached.

—Agreement has been worked out on the purchase of $100 million worth of wheat and flour outside the framework of aid with the proviso that it be repaid over a span of 3 years.

—Regarding the World Bank's loans, the Bank said Egypt can begin to utilize these loans immediately and upon the completion of the negotiations with the Bank.

—Regarding the military loans, the Egyptian side requested that the cumbersome interests be revised and that part of them be forgiven. There are still ongoing contacts between the two sides on the issue. Egyptian proposals are being discussed, but political considerations are involved here.

There remains the issue of agreement with the IMF. There is the agreement of intent about which there is no dispute except concerning details, and these will be thrashed out at upcoming negotiations in Cairo.

According to reliable Egyptian sources, the agreement with the bank may be reached during June or July 1989 at the latest. Following that, all the loans on which the Egyptian ministerial team reached agreement in Washington will be released, as will be the American monetary grants.

Also, after the agreement with the IMF is signed, the Fund will call the Paris Club into session, probably to be held in August 1989, to reschedule the $4.5 million debts and their interests in 1989/1990 along the same lines of the previous rescheduling arrangement worked out with the creditor nations last year.

In the meantime, the Egyptian delegation is preparing a comprehensive report on the outcome of the Washington talks to be submitted to President Mubarak. The president is expected to call a series of meetings for a review of the economic situation and to see how low-income groups may be cushioned from the resultant burdens.

Sudan

Minister Urges SPLA To Call Cease-Fire

EA1804174989 Khartoum SUNA in English 0915 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Sudanese deputy premier and foreign minister, Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, has announced that he would review with the rebel SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army], during his expected visit to Ethiopia, the questions of [word indistinct] of the state of emergency. Al-Husayn, in a press statement which was made public here yesterday, urged the SPLA to work for peace by declaring an immediate cease-fire.

SUNA: 'Armed Rebels' Attack Train, Repelled

EA1804193789 Khartoum SUNA in French 1512 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—After having delivered provisions to the victims of the famine and civil war in southern Sudan, a train carrying thousands of citizens from Aweil was attacked several times by armed rebels in the environs of Mabior, Makere, and Malwal.

The People's Armed Forces succeeded in repelling the rebels, killing about 15 of them and wounding many others. The train arrived in Khartoum on Monday evening [17 April] with all passengers safe and sound.

Israeli Mosad Officers Said Wounded in South

JN1804201889 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Khartoum - AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM — Ranking Sudanese military sources said that three officers from the Israeli Mosad received injuries ranging from average to serious in regions in southern Sudan in the middle of last week.

The sources added that one of the rebel officers who fell captive to the Sudanese Army said that the military car in which the three Mosad officers were riding hit an anti-vehicle mine in one of Sudan's southern regions. This led to their receiving injuries, some serious. They were transferred to one of the neighboring countries after being given first aid. Then they were transferred to Israel.

Islamic Front To Demonstrate for Shari'ah

NC1804163289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (MENA)—The Sudanese National Islamic Front continues to step up its efforts to stage further demonstrations in protest of the decision of the Constituent Assembly—"parliament"—to postpone the discussion of Islamic shari'ah law until after the national constitutional conference convenes to establish peace in southern Sudan.

In this connection, the National Islamic Front Secretariat in Khartoum issued a statement today in which it stressed it will continue to stage marches and demonstrations in various parts of the capital after evening prayers today.

'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, the National Islamic Front's deputy secretary general, stressed that the demonstrations will not stop until Islamic shari'ah law is applied.

In the meantime, Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil held a meeting with the National Islamic Front leaders last night to persuade them to refrain from staging processions and demonstrations, in implementation of the emergency laws and out of concern for the general national interest.

Al-Mahdi Appoints Southern Council Members

EA1804110489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi, has issued a decree in accordance with Article 92-1 of the Sudanese interim constitution of 1985 on the formation of the Southern Council as follows:

Mr Angelo Beda, chairman of the Southern Council; Mr (David Pack Biro), vice chairman and member of the Southern Council; Mr Sapana Jambo, member; Nereo Lope, member; Dr Toby Maduot Parek, member; Uthwan Dak, member; Mr James Ogilo, member; Mr Johannes Yor Akol, member; Mr (Joseph Wol Modisto), member.

Advisers to the Southern Council: Mr (Paul Loth Jok), Mr (Anthony Kirwa), and Mr (Manawah Aligo Danga).

Former President Jimmy Carter Arrives on Visit

EA1804170389 Khartoum SUNA in English 0917 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived here Monday night on a two-day visit to Sudan, aimed at promoting his Global-2000 programme in the country.

Mr Carter, who was received at Khartoum airport by Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn and Finance Minister 'Umar Nur al-Daim, told reporters upon arrival that the Global-2000 programme was aiming at increasing rapidly food production in Sudan.

Mr Carter pointed out that the results of wheat, sorghum, and millet production initiated by the programme have been "remarkable." He said some small Sudanese farmers have harvested 6,000 kg of sorghum a hectare in one week.

Mr Carter went on to say that he would hold talks with Sudanese leaders on peace efforts and relief work in the country. He pointed out that when he got back to the USA, he would report to U.S. President George Bush and the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, on the process of peace and relief work in the country. Mr Carter was accompanied by his wife Rosalyn.

Bahrain

Minister Asks Lebanese To Exercise Restraint

JN1804160889 Manama WAKIH in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Manama, April 18 (GNA)—The State of Bahrain appealed to all Lebanese parties to exert self-restraint and resort to wisdom and start the dialogue to end the humanitarian tragedy in Lebanon.

Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah who is also chairman of the current session of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Ministerial Council said that the State of Bahrain followed with grave concern the deteriorating situation in sisterly Lebanon.

The dangerous escalation in the fight with lethal weapons has caused loss of human life and destruction of vital installations, he said.

In a statement to GULF NEWS AGENCY he said that Bahrain expressed deep regret over the continuation of fighting at the Lebanese area. "Bahrain reiterates its support to efforts by the Arab six-man committee and backs the initiative to hold an emergency meeting for the Arab League Council to discuss this important issue," he added.

Heir Apparent Discusses Regional Issues

JN1804153989 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17 Apr 89 p 4

["Full text" of interview with Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent, by Ahmad al-Jarallah; date and place not given]

[Text] [Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, what is your opinion towards the new Arab Coperation Council [ACC] and the Maghreb Union?

[Al Khalifah] Initially, there were some fears from the Arab people that the establishment of such a council was intended as a form of alliance. Similar fears were expressed when the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] was formed. There is no basis for such fears, as the so-called roles no longer exist after the downfall of the former Shah of Iran. This is borne out by the fact that a superpower searched for someone to play the role of the Shah—but there were no takers. This was further substantiated when the superpowers during the Iran-Iraq war played their role by themselves through the presence of their naval forces in the Gulf waters to directly defend their interests.

Obviously, no one is ready or willing to become a watchman for the interests of others. Thus, the Arab councils are in essence a gathering of interests which link them together.

We, at the official level at the GCC, look to such Arab councils from the standpoint that these are positive steps all leading to linking the joint interests of the Arabs.

The Arab League could have played a vital role in this respect, but for the many obstacles it met with which led to the formation of various Arab councils.

We view such councils as alliances gathering Arab interests in the realm of language unity and not as representing international interests. Thus, instead of similar Arab interests being distributed to 21 countries, they are contained in only three alliances.

[Al-Jarallah] Your Highness, what is the position of the GCC from the ACC and the Maghreb Union?

[Al Khalifah] The new Arab councils stem from the concept of the GCC. Thus the GCC has been seen as an example of others to follow. This will benefit the Arab cause. We have been calling for the unification of Arab interests and the creation of integration.

[Al-Jarallah] With the presence of the Arab councils, do you think that the GCC now requires to be developed and to be more dynamic?

[Al Khalifah] Precisely, I was thinking on similar lines. Co-operation among Arab Gulf states requires to be more dynamic. HH [his highness] the Amir of Kuwait proposed the idea of forming a parliament or a legislative council for the GCC at the GCC summit in Bahrain. If this idea is put into practice, it will give us the required dynamic movement, particularly when the two Arab councils began from where the GCC started.

Among the GCC capabilities is their high level of international acceptance and exposure. The six GCC member states have presented themselves as one negotiating body.

Our opinion is now respected and has a good value in the international arena. The countries of the other Arab councils similarly enjoy good features like huge populations and other positive factors.

[Al-Jarallah] How do you evaluate the visit of the custodian of the two holy mosques to both Baghdad and Cairo and how do you explain the agreements signed between Saudi Arabia and Iraq?

[Al Khalifah] The timing of the visit of King Fahd to both Baghdad and Cairo specially after the announcement of the formation of the ACC, is excelent.

[Al-Jarallah] Your RH [Royal Highness] let us talk about the comprehensive features of the forthcoming economic stage in Bahrain.

[Al Khalifah] The economic situation in Bahrain is improving and has surmounted the stage of economic retreat. We had recently debated in the cabinet the

possibility of reactivating the national private sector and denationalising of some governmental installations gradually. Currently we are talking seriously about reactivating the industrial sector by creating new industries.

We in Bahrain are pleased about the industrial progress achieved in Saudi Arabia and see the Saudi experiment as an important one which provides the GCC markets as well as other foreign markets in Europe, Africa and may be in South Eastern Asia with its products. We hope that if the private sector is encouraged, it will be able to create new industries, particularly if the government has an integrated scheme for co-ordination among current industries.

Bahrain has also to implement the touristic sector, as Bahrain is historically distinguished by its distinct location in the Gulf and in view of the security and stability which prevails in the region.

[Al-Jarallah] Who will play that role, governments, individuals or companies, in other words the public or private sector?

[Al Khalifah] Following full development of the GCC basic structure, the current improvement of oil revenues and stability in the area, the role of the governments now is to draw up legislations, further consolidate the factors responsible for stability of the security situation in the area, and establish more successful relations with world countries.

At the economic level, the private sector must assume its full national responsibilities, and never rely on the prospects of international markets.

Investment opportunity in the area is ample, and the governments must let the private sector operate freely, while providing more chance, incentives and further promote stability in the area.

When the Iraq-Iran war was still ablaze, it was futile to get people to feel confident about any investment enterprise, as a common feeling of apprehension prevailed.

However, now that the war has stopped, the situation is different. The private sector in the GCC has huge amounts of money, of which some is currently invested in the Western markets and other elsewhere.

It is now the time for this money to be repatriated. This is because the opportunity is now available in the area, and all we have to do is develop our countries into being able to successfully manage agriculture and touristic investment.

Plenty of opportunity is available for the private sector, particularly since a great number of conventional industries in Europe will be dislocated due to high cost, and the fact that greater attention is accorded to heavy industries.

[Al-Jarallah] Some of the industries that you propose such as the touristic industry, are hampered by the prevailing sense of security and the laws and regulations enforced as a result. What is your comment?

[Al Khalifah] Yes, this is true. However, with the inter-GCC road network and interlinks various [as published] national interests, the security apprehensions should now fade out. As all activities get relocated from the public sector into the private one, and the citizens are made to make positive contributions to the national development process, every citizen will become protective of his own interests and act as a security officer who maintains stability and security.

This is so as the government could not possibly be responsible for everything, and the private sector must play its rightful positive role, particularly following the full development of the GCC basic structure, which is very instrumental in meeting the various national requirements and services.

[Al-Jarallah] What is the purpose of your recent visits to Qatar, the Emirates and Saudi Arabia?

[Al Khalifah] We in Bahrain strongly believe in the efficiency of direct contacts and personal involvement yields results better than exchanging messages or telephone conversations.

As I mentioned earlier on, there must not be any barriers between the members of any Gulf family, so that we can speed up the inter-linkage of our people's interests.

I find this policy very successful in reaching results and dealing with pending issues. Not necessarily Bahraini issues, but issues of a wider nature seeking to optimise inter-GCC performance.

[Al-Jarallah] There are those who believe that the flames of the Iraq-Iran war have not quite died, since no peace agreement has been reached.

[Al Khalifah] The war has ended. The general sentiments prevailing in the area tells you that no one ever wants war anymore, including those with border disputes between them.

The Iraq-Iran war has ended, and this is an indisputable fact. It has been established that the interests of both warring parties lay in the stoppage of the conflict. However, time will help heal wounds, and relations between both countries would eventually improve.

Personally, I don't think Iraq would start the war again as it nurses no aspirations or designs for gains. Similarly, Iran is not likely to war against Iraq again, having lost the battle. The only real war that remains to be fought is that of development, patching up differences and strengthening bilateral and mutual interests between themselves and the world at large.

[Al-Jarallah] Could you elaborate this point?

[Al Khalifah] Following the oil boom which lasted for ten years in which the infrastructural projects had been completed, the arena had witnessed some critical years which had been represented by the eruption of the Iraq-Iran war.

But, for the time being the war is over and the features of the next ten years could be perceived. We can say that the Western countries and the super powers in view of their new economic interests will not be in a position to go ahead with the traditional industrial output.

As the economies of these countries will not be able to meet the cost of the traditional industrial production. [Sentence incomplete as published] These industries will be relocated to new homes such as the Arab countries and South Eastern Asian countries. Needless to say that for the Arab countries, it is ready to accommodate this type of industry due to its large markets. What have to be ready to deal with this stage efficiently during the forthcoming ten years. [sentence incomplete as published] I believe, that the Arab world and through a certain economic integration and through its regional cooperation councils will be able to deal with these prospects.

We in Bahrain were talking about this important stage and we had started establishing a lot of industries which had been designed not to respond only to our local requirements but to meet the requirements of the region entirely.

[Al-Jarallah] Do you believe that GCC states will find themselves in a position of competing with the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union?

[Al Khalifah] If this happens it will be good. This may make us more active beside having a quick performance in linking ties and interests of our people and hasten the achievement of legislations and plans that serve our countries because if we do not carry them out others will.

[Al-Jarallah] How do you see the Arab Maghreb Union from a distance?

[Al Khalifah] In a meeting with HH Hassan, the Moroccan king, said that West European countries are like a lever to America. This reflects the fact that a big country like America is concerned with this complex European power and seeks further economical and ideological linkage with it.

In my opinion, the Arab Maghreb Union has a greater role with regard to the north Arabian part of Africa. King Hassan was capable of giving a good reflection of the Arabian concern on the western part of the Arabian world. With the development of communication facilities introduced in the Arab world Western countries became closer than before.

The future will reveal that the GCC has strong ties with the Arab Maghreb Union or the Arab Cooperation Council. Big industrial countries will find themselves unable to establish some traditional industries due to the rise in labourers wages, at that same time, these markets at the Arab Maghreb Union and Arab Cooperation Council will be able to do so.

Perhaps, there is some wisdom behind it as it has come about after forming a council comprising four important countries whose population is 80 million. They do not represent international roles, but reflect Arab national spirit.

The agreements signed between Iraq and Saudi Arabia come as a direct translation of the national declaration President Saddam Husayn made in 1980 which called for solving all outstanding issues among Arab countries through diplomatic means, specially related to border issues.

Wars will only lead to destruction and the obstruction of developmental projects in Arab countries.

The visit of King Fahd to two important Arab countries has come to comply with the weight and importance Saudi Arabia carries as state.

[Al-Jarallah] Do you think that GCC states in the competitive atmosphere among the three Arab councils are capable of creating the dynamism you called for?

[Al Khalifah] Yes. There is nothing to stop it. We may have some fears in the Gulf house, but we have to understand it within the framework of our states through solving our outstanding bilateral relations and speeding and expanding the linking of the interests of the GCC states. We should speed up the linking of our people's interests together in order not to find ourselves one day lagging behind some other states.

PDRY

Protocol Provides for PRC Medical Assistance

EA1804112489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] A protocol of cooperation in the field of health was signed this morning at the Public Health Ministry between Democratic Yemen and the PRC Government. The protocol provides for a medical mission from the Chinese People's Government consisting of 63 persons to perform medical duties in Democratic Yemen and to assist the Yemeni medical personnel in medical treatment.

The members of the Chinese team will work in Aden, Abyan and Hadramawt Governorates. The protocol was signed for Yemen by Dr Said Sharaf Badr, the minister of public health, and for China by the Chinese charge d'affaires in Aden, Comrade (Chang Chungkun). After the signing of the protocol, the two sides exchanged compliments saying that this agreement would contribute toward developing and strengthening relations between the two friendly countries in various fields.

Zone Free of Nuclear, Chemical Weapons Urged

JN1904124289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Geneva, 19 Apr (INA)—Iraq has called for declaring the Middle East a zone free of nuclear and chemical weapons [CW] and other weapons of mass destruction, with the condition that all parties in the region, including the Zionist entity, should sign the effective treaties such as the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

In a speech last night before the first ordinary session of the disarmament conference of 1989, currently being held here, Rahim 'Abd al-Katl, head of the Iraqi delegation, said that the objective of nuclear disarmament is to reinforce world peace and security.

He added that the results of the disarmament process should not benefit a single state or a group of states at the expense of other states. He said that all states should enjoy security at all times.

Al-Katl stressed that the special nature of every region in the world must be taken into consideration when measures of disarmament are adopted so that these measures will be simultaneous and cover all weapons of mass destruction. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies 'Rapprochement' With Israel

JN1804171989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Reacting to Israeli statements that Israel hopes for a rapprochement with Iraq, a Ministry of Culture and Information spokesman said here today that this is a figment of the imagination and a scheme by the Zionist entity to conceal its crimes against the sons of the Palestinian Arab people and the Arab nation.

The spokesman was replying to a statement made by Re'uven Merhav, Israeli Foreign Ministry director general, in which he said that Israel wishes to obtain Iraq's support, normalize relations with Iraq, and even reach a kind of peaceful settlement with it.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that Iraq knows very well that Israel is its enemy and the enemy of the Arab nation. He added that Iraq is not seeking, and will not seek to normalize relations with those who usurped the land of Palestine, killed thousands of innocent people, and perpetrated every form of terrorism and torture against the sons of Palestine.

The spokesman added that the Israeli statement only reflects the historical crisis the Zionist entity is going through as a result of the mammoth revolution by the sons of Palestine against the occupation, and in the wake of the decisive Iraqi victory against the Iranian enemy, which gave true depth and dimension to the revolution of stones.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said that valiant Arab Iraq will continue to be the honest defender of the Palestinian cause, supporting the Palestinians under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Tariq 'Aziz on Next Round of Talks With Iran

JN1804202989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Apr (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Iran's evasion of the 8 August agreement is a grave phenomenon and that in the forthcoming negotiations it should act in accordance with the agreement signed last year between Iraq and Iran under the supervision of the UN secretary general.

In a news conference here this evening attended by local, Arab, and foreign press and news agency correspondents, 'Aziz said that Iran should determine its stand on the issue of direct negotiations in accordance with the text of the UN secretary general's message, so that a common understanding of Security Council Resolution No. 598 can be reached.

He said that if the Iranian side continues to refrain from direct negotiations, it bears responsiblity for violating the 8 August agreement and the lack of progress in these negotiations.

He pointed out that Iran, since the first round of negotiations in Geneva on 25 August 1988, has not committed itself, either in letter or in spirit, to the 8 August agreement. The previous meetings, in fact, were not direct negotiations as stated by the UN secretary general; rather, they were debating sessions between the two parties, 'Aziz said.

In that round of negotiations, 'Aziz added, Iraq drew the secretay general's attention to the fact that this behavior cannot lead to the desired goal—namely, a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

He stressed that Iraq takes the issue of negotiations seriously and that the other side should show similar seriousness so that a lasting and comprehensive peace can be reached.

He said that the UN secretary general and the world community should compel Iran to respect the 8 August agreement. Without respect for this agreement and without direct negotiations, he added, no progress can be made.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz described the statements by the Iranian president on building confidence in the Iranian negotiator during the forthcoming stage as suggesting that such

confidence is uncertain and indecisive. In this case, he said, we can expect the Iranian negotiator to be unable to deal with topics of negotiation in a manner leading to decisive solutions. It is also possible, he said, that the Iranian negotiator may resort to ambiguity, maneuvers, and intransigence. We have seen such cases in previous rounds, he explained.

On the issue of POW's, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Iran is intentionally keeping the issue of POW's, their suffering, and the anxiety of their families unresolved. It is illegitimately trying to link their case to the results of the poltical negotiations. He described this as unethical and contradictory to human values and the rules of the international law.

He said that Iran has a black record in dealing with POW's and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. Iran, he said, did not respect the Geneva agreement on POW's, either during or after the war. Iran has used every brutal method against the Iraqi POW's, including murder, torture, and psychological intimidation.

He stressed that there are more than 30,000 Iraqi POW's not registered with the ICRC. Their situation remains a mystery, he said, drawing the world's attention to this deliberate violation of international law.

[Text] 'Aziz said that he sent messages today to the UN secretary general and the ICRC chairman calling on them to press Iran to respect the rules of international law.

Turning to Lebanon, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Iraq supports the call by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad for an extraordinary meeting for the Arab League Council to reach a firm cease-fire agreement in Lebanon.

He said: We believe the cease-fire in Lebanon should be fully respected. He said that the Syrian regime still insists on violating the cease-fire. Iraq condemns this conduct and calls on the entire world to condemn it.

On Iraqi-Syrian relations, 'Aziz stressed that disagreements between Iraq and Syria are not tribal ones that can be resolved by reconciliation. The disagreements, he explained, are [word indistinct] related to the Syrian regime's stands on every significant Arab issue, particularly its stand on continued Iranian aggression against Iraq for the past 8 years, the independent Palestinian state, and Lebanon.

He said the disagreements will continue as long as the Syrian regime's policy in these areas remains unchanged. If it changes, he added, there will be room for understanding and a resolution of differences

AL-JUMHURIYAH Cited on Talks

JN1804120489 Baghdad INA in English 0915 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 18 INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad for today urged Iran to render the new round of direct negotiations with Iraq due on Thursday [20 April] to be fruitful towards implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution No. 598.

In an editorial today the newspaper said Iran has to realize that Resolution No. 598 is a framework for an agreement of comprehensive, durable and just peace and that the international and human community along with the region's peoples fully comprehend that the aim of the Security Council resolution is to reach a real peace agreement between Iraq and Iran and that two countries be two elements of peace and stability in the region.

It confirmed that Iran's rulers selective method and their twisted style and instigating by-issues such as necessity of withdrawal before establishing ceasefire through signed agreements, and such as the return to speak about the agreement of 1975 which they abrogated and killed does not mean but the desire to evade from implementing the Resolution No. 598.

AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper added that Iran rulers use manoeuvers in the negotiations hall as a card to settle their internal calculations.

It also warned that that would not lead to what these rulers want and peace will remain something making them restless while the Iraqis with their leader would continue celebrating peace and festivities of liberation and victory.

It added that Iran rulers must remove from their minds suspicions of the world about their credibility. They have to implement the will of the international community concerning the exchange of prisoners of war immediately after cessation of military hostilities, which is a will not included among their intentions as it is clear despite that it is a will supported by texts of international treaties and agreements in use.

The paper also confirmed that Iraq had offered all initiatives which facilitate implementation of the international will and the like that facilitate implementation of the Resolution 598 which consequently means comprehensive and permanent peace.

The paper brought back to mind that Iraq had defined only two ways for implementing the Resolution 598, i.e., either implementing this resolution according to sequence of its articles or its implementation as considered as one package.

The paper added that Iraq views that Iran's attempts of skipping over articles of the resolution and playing with its words were attempts aiming at hindering the process of negotiations and fleeing from implementation of the international resolution.

Minister Praises French Position on Lebanon

JN1804120089 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 18, INA—Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information said that Iraq looks with satisfaction upon the French political stand supporting Lebanon's unity and the humanitarian assistance presented to it in general.

In a statement to INA Mr. Jasim said that this stand would provide Lebanon with an appropriate atmosphere to achieve its unity.

He renewed Iraq's request to all the good people in the Arab homeland and the world to confront with the liquidation campaigns practised by the Syrian regime.

The Iraqi minister urged all the good-willed people in Arab countries and the world to stand against the conspiracy by exercising pressure in order to free Lebanon from mass killing and burning operations practised by Hafiz al-Asad's forces in cooperation with the Iranian and Zionist regimes as part of their schemes for partitioning and breaking up the Arab people in Lebanon.

Mr. Jasim praised the Arab official support and its condemnation of the Syrian forces' destructive operations against Lebanon.

Paper Calls for Arab Summit

JN1804125789 Baghdad INA in English 0940 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Baghdad, Apr. 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad called for holding an Arab summit conference to issue mandatory resolutions to treat the Lebanese situation.

In a commentary today the paper said the required Arab summit would be interested in uniting Lebanon, liberation of its territories, revival of its constitutional institutions, help its government spread its material and moral influence over all the Lebanese areas and protecting the Lebanese citizen against the daily aggression on his general freedoms and basic rights and properties and whatever associated with his security and dignity.

It added that the six-man Arab committee, owing to conspiracy by Syria, was changed from a national political committee to a security committee whose task is confined to observing ceasefire, which is the only possible option now remained to this committee.

AL-THAWRAH newspaper warned that the Syrian Government was now carring out a third phase of a several-phase scheme aimed at destroying Lebanon and partitioning it in the way serving the Zionist entity and Hafiz al-Asad's dominating tendency.

Shamir: Ties With Hungary Not Issue of Visit

TA1904081389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha Friedman and Goni Savir—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Friedman] Is there any basis to the news published this morning by various sources that you went to Hungary expecting an immediate reestablishment of full diplomatic relations with that country?

[Shamir] No. This was not the issue at all. I had not expected it. Until yesterday, the Hungarian deputy foreign minister was here. He dealt with these matters and concluded that, if the current course continues, it will undoubtedly lead to a full reestablishment of relations in the near future. I did not raise this issue again while in Budapest, nor was there reason to.

[Savir] So what was the purpose of your visit, sir?

[Shamir] We scheduled this visit some time ago, before my departure for the United States. This was supposed to have been a meeting between myself and the ruling Communist Party general secretary, initiated by the Hungarians. The meeting was needed to review the development of relations, the situation in the Middle East, the international situation, and so on.

[Friedman] Is it true that Israel had committed itself to help find Jewish investors to invest millions of dollars in Hungary?

[Shamir] First of all, there was no commitment. Second, no one talked to me about it. I am very sorry to hear that someone made a mistaken statement. Not a single word was exchanged with me on this issue when I was in Budapest.

[Friedman] So what is holding up the immediate establishment of relations?

[Shamir, laughing] I am not holding up anything.

[Friedman] It is they.

[Shamir] Yes, the delay is theirs. They believe that matters are on their designated course, and that they will reach their destination soon.

[Savir] Do you believe that Hungary may take some mediating role in the Middle East conflict?

[Shamir] I do not think they could make any unusual contribution.

[Savir, interrupting] Perhaps some linkage to the USSR?

[Shamir] No, they are a part of the bloc that today is seemingly outside of all discussions. They would obviously like to be a part of the process to a certain extent.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister.

[Shamir] I thank you, and wish you and all of Israel a happy and kosher Passover.

Visit to Hungary Analyzed

TA1904071689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Talk between anchorman Shalom Qital and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami upon Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's return from his visit to Hungary—live]

[Text] [Qital] Early this morning, the prime minister returned from his semi-secret visit to Hungary. On the face of it, it all seems simple: A trip to Budapest to discuss further tightening of ties with Hungary, a possibility of reestablishing diplomatic relations. Still, the sudden, secret trip calls for questions, and we ask them. Good morning, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

[Ben-'Ami] Good morning, Shalom.

[Qital] You managed to talk to the prime minister after waiting for him this morning. We will soon hear this brief discussion. What have you learned about this trip?

[Ben-'Ami] First, that it was at the Hungarians' initiative. The prime minister explained that this trip was planned even before Shamir left for his U.S. trip, during which some possibility occurred for Shamir to visit Hungary on his way home. The intention probably was to discuss interests. Hungary's trouble is that it needs money, mainly U.S. dollars. An Israeli promise was made that efforts to find investors in the United States among wealthy Jews there will be made. This issue has been held up somewhat.

Apparently, it is not easy to invest in Hungary today. The issue of reestablishing relations is being delayed as well, because the two issues are interrelated. The Hungarians apparently wanted to clarify some points. That is why they asked that the prime minister come to Budapest and make the situation clear. Incidentally, the issues were discussed in an earlier talk between Deputy Foreign Ministers Netanyahu and Kovacs in Israel last week.

[Qital] Why at this level? Why discuss such issues on the prime ministerial level? Why not some adviser or minister?

[Ben-'Ami] Because senior Israeli ministers—Shim'on Peres, when he visited Budapest; Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon; and Yitzhaq Shamir himself, when he visited Hungary 6 months ago—promised the

Hungarians that efforts would be made to find investors. The reestablishment of relations was made conditional on this issue. Israel needs them, too. It is worth noting that Israel has only one ally in the Eastern bloc, Romania, that in terms of the political process is actually open to both directions, us and the Arabs. There is good reason to make a move that would enable another such country, namely Hungary, to become our ally. Making relations close enough to establish diplomatic ties, however, is being delayed so far.

[Later in the same newscast Shalom Qital adds: "Minister Ari'el Sharon, who listened to our report on making relations with Hungary conditional on economic aid, says that no special investments in Hungary were promised in return for the reestablishment of political ties. Minister Sharon, as is known, visited Hungary some time ago, and made clear to his Hungarian counterparts that the two issues must not be linked. Everything has to be based on mutual interests. Minister Sharon told the Hungarians, and I quote: Friendship is friendship, business is business. This is Minister Sharon's position today as well, and he claims that he made no other commitment."]

[Qital] Let us hear your discussion with Prime Minister Shamir. This interview was held at 0200 today, is that correct?

[Ben-'Ami] Yes, and we asked him the reason for this visit.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] The meeting was scheduled a long time ago, even before I left for the United States. It was at the initiative of the Hungarian Communist Party general secretary. When we met 6 months ago, he suggested that the meeting be held. The issues we discussed—in detail this time, in a 4-hour talk—related to bilateral relations between Israel and the Soviet bloc. They wanted to hear about our peace initiative. That was all. We concluded our discussions with this. They believe that bilateral relations are continuing and progressing at the right speed, and in accordance with the designated course. The time for normal relations will come.

[Ben-'Ami] When, more or less?

[Shamir] In the near future. I was very satisfied, and held an exciting meeting with the Jewish community there in youth clubs. I heard two choirs singing songs of Zion. All of this was not there 6 months ago. It has developed over the past year. It was good to see that the ties of Hungarian Jews with Israel are growing stronger. I hope that we will see the results of this.

[Ben-'Ami] Are more visits to East European capitals expected?

[Shamir] I do not know at present. [end recording]

[Qital] This is my next question as well: Is the prime minister planning another visit somewhere?

[Ben-'Ami] We have just heard the prime minister say that at present he does not know. I can only give you my impression: I do think that such a possibility should not be totally ruled out. It is very probable because it is very important to advance the peace process, as the prime minister calls it. I do not rule out the possibility that the East Bloc would shoulder... [passage indistinct].

[Qital] [passage indistinct] Wednesday is when the routine Inner Cabinet meeting is held. Will there be one today?

[Ben-'Ami] Yes, the prime minister decided to hold one today.

[Qital] Will his proposal for elections in the territories be on the agenda?

[Ben-'Ami] We will know this at the conclusion of the meeting.

[Qital] Thank you, 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Netanyahu on Relations

TA1804183989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said that he had reached an agreement with his Hungarian counterpart that an announcement on the renewal of diplomatic relations will be possible following the completion of all economic accords between the two countries. Netanyahu said he believed that the economic agreements will be concluded in the near future. Thus diplomatic relations will also be renewed shortly.

Our political correspondent pointed out that Hungary claims it has not received a satisfactory response regarding investments by U.S. companies being organized by Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wound up his political meetings in Budapest today. A Hungarian Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that Hungary had agreed to mediate between the sides in the Middle East conflict.

Rabin: Elections Not Linked to Ending 'Uprising'

TA1904122489 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 89 p 1

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] During his forthcoming trip to the United States, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will propose holding political, not municipal, elections in the territories. 'AL HAMISHMAR has been told by official sources that the defense minister will not make the cessation of the uprising a precondition for elections.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will leave on an official visit to Washington at the end of May. He will meet administration officials, congressmen, and senators.

Rabin's plan for holding elections is well known. That is why some people view Rabin's visit as an attempt to further clarify the program Shamir offered the United States.

Rabin will tell his interlocutors that he is interested in holding political elections and will not oppose political activities in the territories during the period before the elections. It is a known fact that the defense establishment has forbidden any political activity in the territories in recent years.

The defense minister will also agree to allow East Jerusalem residents to take part in the elections. Rabin would allow them to vote in the Ramallah District if this does not prove incompatible with Israeli law.

The plan Rabin will present in the United States also permits the residents of the territories to set up a strong local police force and provides for possible self-rule limited only by Israeli involvement in domestic security and protection for the Jewish settlements.

It has been learned that Rabin does not present the cessation of the uprising as a precondition for elections because he believes that the uprising will wane on its own accord as soon as elections push the political process forward.

Majority Supports Elections in Territories

TA1904123689 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 Apr 89 p 1

[Dahaf Institute poll conducted by Dr Mina Tzemah]

[Text] A large majority of the public (65 percent) supports the idea of elections in the territories; a majority (58 percent) feels that the intifadah [uprising] has not affected their lifestyle; and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received the highest popularity ratings.

These findings emerged from a public opinion poll conducted between 12 and 16 April 1989. The survey encompassed a representative sampling of 656 people who were personally interviewed.

Question: Are you for or against the notion of elections in the territories? (answers in percentage)
For: 65 Against: 31 No opinion: 4
Question: Has the intifadah affected your lifestyle?
Yes: 41 No: 58 No opinion: 1

Question: Rate the performance of the prime minister, the defense minister, the foreign minister, the finance minister, and the transportation minister (the following popularity rating is based on the combination of the ratings of "good" and "very good" given in response to the above question):

Rabin:	74
Shamir:	70
Arens:	68
Peres:	60
Qatzav:	59

Gaza Notables Asked for Opinions on Elections

TA1804174989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 18 Apr 89 p A1

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, and Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Excerpt] Senior Israeli officials have asked Gaza Strip leaders to prepare written opinions concerning their conception of elections in the territories by next week. Among the notables asked to do so is Dr Fayiz Abu Rahmah, one of Yasir 'Arafat's supporters in the Gaza Strip. The Military Advocate General's Office has started preparing papers on the legal implications of participation in the elections by East Jerusalem inhabitants and Palestinians who carry a foreign passport. [passage omitted]

U.S. Accused of 'Playing Up' to Shamir Plan

TA1804174189 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 17 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "No to Shamir's Plan"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, finding himself in a corner because of his inflexibility on a peace settlement, decided to come up with an initiative of his own. The United States, concerned over the pressure put on its ally, was anxious and demanded that Shamir present something to get his country out of the hole. So when Shamir suggested elections in the occupied areas, the U.S. immediately grabbed at it and sponsored the plan, exerting all efforts to turn the table around and put the pressure on the Palestinians for a change.

Only days before Shamir arrived in Washington and held meetings with that country's top leaders, the U.S. Administration was calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied areas, the convening of a "properly structured" international conference as an avenue to solve the Middle East problem, and suggested that Israel eventually talk to the PLO for a final settlement.

Soon after that and after Shamir's visit, the U.S., in a turnabout, endorsed Shamir's elections proposal, which includes nothing that the U.S. was calling for earlier. This shift drew heavy criticism from Palestinians, and Arabs in general, who saw in previous statements of the United States a ray of hope for a serious settlement.

The Palestinians could not believe that the United States would fall for such a plan; or was it ready to take anything that Israel would come up with to help it out? Clearly, this U.S. position took the confidence-building between the Arabs and the U.S. back to where it was months ago when neither side trusted anything the other would offer. Once again, the U.S. portrayed itself as Israel's staunchest ally, right or wrong.

The elections, as an idea, were something Palestinians have been demanding for years. But Shamir's version of elections is clearly stated and leaves no doubt the prime minister considers them a way to maintain Israeli control over the occupied areas. This is why Palestinians were quick to reject Shamir's plan and why they do not see any reason to explore it further, as the U.S. is demanding.

Shamir, unfortunately, is not sincere about finding an honorable settlement fair to all parties. He wants the land and peace at the same time. He therefore is not expected to suggest anything that would contradict this position. This is why we do not trust Shamir when he comes up with a so-called initiative for settlement.

The U.S. was moving on the right track before it agreed to Shamir's elections proposal. After coming a long way toward a settlement, playing up to Shamir set these efforts back. A lot of mending is now required to set the process back on the right track.

Elections Seen as 'Dagger' in Palestinians' Back

TA1804183489 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Apr 89 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "Elections—A Poisonous Dagger"]

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat described Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposal on holding elections in the occupied territories as not an initiative at all. Rather, he said it was a mere trial balloon aiming to obstruct efforts by Egypt and Jordan to prepare the climate and conditions for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The Palestinian president expressed his hope that King Husayn, who is to visit the U.S. capital during the coming days, will be able to convince the U.S. Administration of the futility of Shamir's proposals, and will urge the administration to advance the international efforts aimed at finding a comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Hence the insistence by the United States on backing Shamir's idea for holding elections in the occupied territories, at a time when the Bush administration is fully aware that this idea will not elicit any positive reaction from the Palestinians and the Arabs, raises specific questions. This is especially so when this U.S. position is in contrast to the growing international trend supporting the Palestinian steps that have responded favorably to the requirements for peace. This trend is tirelessly and persistently endeavoring to convene an international peace conference according to the UN model.

Therefore, in light of this U.S. position, which not only ignores Israeli aggressions in the occupied territories and blesses Israeli ideas, but also promotes these ideas and asks the Arabs not to hasten to reject them, the aim behind blessing and insisting on the concept of elections becomes very clear. The aim is to stab the Palestinians in the back with a poisonous dagger, after which the U.S. Administration and Israel will begin to clothe the Palestinians in the garb they favor, namely the garb knitted from the worn-out threads of the "Camp David" factories.

The Arabs are required to take the appropriate steps to respond to the U.S. and Israeli plans, because the concept of elections is no more than a trial balloon to impede the peace efforts. It is a poisonous dagger that the Israelis, along with their major ally, want to aim at the intifadah's [uprising] chest.

Amnesty International Allegations 'Total Lie'

TA1904054689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Amnesty International has accused the Israeli Government of encouraging troops to kill or wound Palestinians during the uprising in the territories. The London-based organization urged Israel to set up an independent judicial inquiry into what it called a wide range of human rights violations by security forces. An Amnesty spokesman said government authorities are, in effect, encouraging misuse of force by failing to speak out against excessive violence or issue clear guidelines to soldiers.

Prime Minister Shamir's office said the allegations are outrageous, and that Amnesty is out of touch with events in the territories. Spokesman Avi Pazner said the allegations are a total lie, and troops are under strict instructions not to cause casualties when avoidable. When fatalities do occur, Pazner said, there is an inquiry in every case.

Czech, East German Groups Guests of MAPAM

TA0904103189 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar]

[Text] MAPAM [United Workers Party] is expanding its relations with parties of countries with which Israel does not maintain diplomatic relations. A Czech National Front delegation headed by Yaja Hora [name as published] arrived Friday night. Its members were taken from Ben-Gurion Airport to Kefar Masaryk, a kibbutz founded by Czech immigrants, where they were the guests of Avri Fisher of the world alliance of MAPAM,

and Yitzhaq Patish, a former ambassador to Austria. Yesterday they were taken on a tour of the kibbutz; later they called on Knesset Member Husayn Faris in his home in 'Akko.

During the week the members of the delegation will confer with MAPAM secretary general El'azar Granot, international secretary Arye Yafe, Foreign Ministry officials, and Labor Party members.

Monica Polack, international secretary of MAPAM's Youths, received a congratulatory message from the China's Youth federation. In the message the federation asks to expand ties between the two bodies in a bid to bring positions and opinions closer, and does not altogether rule out the possibility of sending a delegation to Israel, albeit not this year.

Young members of the East German Communist Party will today be the guests of MAPAM's Young Generation.

Shahal Calls for 'Regeneration' of Labor Party

TA1804112789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Telephone interview with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Friedman] Good morning, Minister Shahal.

[Shahal] A very good morning to you.

[Friedman] After yesterday's Central Committee meeting, Shim'on Peres said: I have never received such a vote of confidence as I did in this meeting. Did Moshe Shahal also give his party chairman a vote of confidence, as did—in Peres' opinion—the other Central Committee members?

[Shahal] I do not think the issue of confidence was on the agenda. Only stage actors are impressed by applause and see it as a token of appreciation of their performance. The issue was not on the agenda, and there has never been any such demand. I believe all this fuss over whether there was or was not a vote of confidence is much ado about something very marginal, which is in no way the central issue at stake.

[Dan] But what is your impression? Has Shim'on Peres received a vote of confidence?

[Shahal] My impression is that there was a serious debate. I would like to emphasize, however, the main thing, which is what I demanded and was granted. I demanded the establishment of a commission to address the issue of elections [to the Knesset] and reach conclusions on a wide range of subjects, including the party message and organizational aspects, but also the functioning of the leadership. [passage omitted]

[Friedman] Minister Shahal, are you now building a camp of your own through which you will test your ability to regain the Labor Party's past glory?

[Shahal] I am strongly opposed to this system of camps, and this is part of my criticism of what is going on in the party. I feel a part of the entire party, and I believe that when the time comes to vote for individuals, the members will weigh and consider the alternatives. I am convinced that the man who has the right platform and content is the one who will get the party's confidence. I believe that in such a case, my chances are very good.

[Dan] What gives you this confidence?

[Shahal] The clear knowledge derived from talks, meetings, and from a general feeling about what I hear from fellow party members. But even beyond that, I derive the confidence from that which motivates every man in politics: I believe that the precept that I represent is the right one and is needed at this time by both my movement and the Israeli public.

[Dan] When you refer to a way rather than to individuals, do you mean to say that your way will differ from Shim'on Peres'?

[Shahal] I assume that what I propose is more entrenched in the Labor Party's requirements, doctrine, and principles, particularly in view of its past MAPAI [Israeli Workers Party] background.

[Friedman] Will it then be necessary to replace the patriarch with one of his sons?

[Shahal] Look, the way should also represent people. The argument should not be overdramatized. The present leadership has been on top for the last 20 years, and nothing is more natural than a reshuffle. I will say this for Shim'on Peres: He himself coined this expression in 1974 when he said that the party needs to be regenerated every 4 years.

[Friedman] You fed him his words last night, did you not, by quoting him?

[Shahal] I believe he does not retract the statement he made in 1974. On the contrary, the proposed regeneration has become even more vital with the passage of time.

[Friedman] Minister Moshe Shahal, thank you very much.

[Shahal] Thank you.

West Bank, Israeli Medical System To Be Divided

TA1804195789 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 18 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] AL-NAHAR has learned that agreements have been reached on cutting the links of the state-owned medical system in the West Bank from the Israeli system.

Authorities in the Israeli Civil Administration have undertaken to provide government hospitals with medical equipment and appliances so that they would not need the services of Israeli hospitals.

It has been learned that specialized doctors from the Arab world will be allowed to work in West Bank government hospitals to remedy the shortages.

Cost of Detention, Number of Detainees Reported

TA1904125989 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 19 Apr 89 p 6

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Official sources have told 'AL HAMISHMAR that operating the detention facilities in the territories has cost the Defense Ministry 100 million shekels since the beginning of the uprising.

These expenses include renovations, infrastructure, and the upkeep of approximately seven large detention facilities set up in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and of Megiddo Prison, which is inside the Green Line. This estimate also includes the sums that were needed to set up the new appellate court operating in the territories.

The defense establishment has jailed approximately 30,000 people since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising]. Of these prisoners, some were put under administrative detention and some were imprisoned before or after their trial.

IDF To Bury Palestinians in Israeli Territories

TA1904124389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 89 p 2

[Report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz]

[Text] Israel Defense Forces [IDF] commanders in south Lebanon have recently been ordered to ensure that all Palestinians killed in clashes with the IDF and the South Lebanese Army are buried in Israel.

The IDF has a standing order to bury Palestinians within Israeli territory to enable a future exchange, should there be one, of bodies of Palestinians buried in Israel for IDF soldiers buried on the other side of the border.

The Palestinians are buried in a cemetery for enemy fallen in northern Israel.

Universities Operating 'Clandestine Branches'

TA1804183689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The Bi'r Zayt and Bethlehem Universities, which were closed approximately 18 months ago following disturbances, have set up clandestine branches in a number of private schools in East Jerusalem.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum has learned that approximately 300 students from the territories are studying in these institutions. These students were formerly students at the above-mentioned universities.

The Jerusalem police found out about the matter following the arrest of a Gaza student who was caught trying to hoist a PLO flag at one of the schools. During the investigation, the police learned that many of the students who attended classes in East Jerusalem were involved in disturbances.

Academic studies were stopped in the three schools, but they might still be continuing in other locations.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

West Bank Youth Wounded

TA1804181589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] A 14-year-old youth was injured by shots fired by an Israeli civilian in the village of Al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Judaea District Police are investigating reports that the boy was wounded by the driver of an Israeli garbage truck that had been pelted with stones.

Military sources told our correspondent that so far no connection has been proved between the death of the girl killed in Al-Duhayshah refugee camp yesterday and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]. The inquiry conducted by the security forces has shown that no army forces were deployed yesterday in the area where the girl was allegedly injured. The sources added that the camp's residents will not permit the exhumation of the girl's corpse to enable a pathological examination.

Update on 18 Apr Incidents

TA1904073889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Apr 89 p 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] A general strike paralyzed the territories yesterday, and 29 people were reported wounded, two of them seriously, in stone-throwing clashes. The strike was called by the uprising leadership to protest the commandeering of Arab-owned cars by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] for raids on Palestinian villages and towns. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, 24 Palestinians were wounded in clashes with troops, mostly by plastic bullets, Palestinians said. The IDF spokeswoman confirmed six casualties.

In clashes in Khan Yunus, 15 people were wounded, seven of them in the chest and stomach, according to hospital reports. A teenager who sustained severe neck injuries was taken to Sheba Hospital, in Tel Hashomer. Palestinians also reported five people wounded at the Al-Burayj refugee camp, two at Abasan, one in Al-Nusayrat and one in Gaza. Several children were reportedly beaten in the area, including an 8-year-old boy hospitalized in Gaza. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank, a 21-year-old was reported wounded at the Tulkarm refugee camp, a 15-year-old at Tubas, north of Nabulus, one person in Nabulus, and another at the 'Askar refugee camp. The IDF lifted the curfew imposed on Nabulus on Sunday's anniversary of the assassination of PLO military chief Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad). [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 19 April reports that "in Gaza city, two refugee camps and one neighborhood are still under curfew." The report also states that "three policemen and two Arab residents were injured last night in renewed disturbances at Jabal al-Mukabar on the southern outskirts of Jerusalem. A Voice of Israel reporter says strong police and Border Police reinforcements were brought in when youths blocked roads and burned tires. The police used tear gas and rubber and plastic bullets to disperse the crowds. Nine suspects were detained for questioning. The village was later reported quiet."

[Later the report adds that "Knesset Member Hayim Oron cited Arab residents of Jabal al-Mukabar as accusing the Border Police of firing tear gas into a house when only a woman and a baby were inside."]

2 Wounded in Gaza Strip

TA1904142589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Two people were wounded by soldiers' gunfire during disturbances in the Gaza Strip today. One of the persons was wounded in Khan Yunus and the other in Bani Suhaylah. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Khan Yunus was put under curfew this morning.

According to Arab inhabitants, approximately 10 persons were wounded by plastic bullets and several others by rubber bullets in disturbances in the Gaza Strip.

Small Bomb Safely Dismantled

TA1904151989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] A small bomb was safely dismantled in downtown Jerusalem 2 hours ago. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that pedestrians and shopowners alerted the police after spotting a suspicious-colored tin can near Zion Square. After searches were carried out in the area, it transpired that there were no more bombs in the area. Several suspects have been detained for interrogation. The police call on the public to be particularly alert on the holiday.

Immigration Grows by 23 Percent in 1st Quarter

TA1304122389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] In the January-March period, the number of immigrants increased by 23 percent compared with the same period last year. The total number of immigrants in this period stood at 4,210, including 1,057 from the Soviet Union, 469 from Romania, 222 from France, 365 from North America, and 684 from Argentina.

Aharon Lapidot, director general of Immigrant Absorption Ministry, said that the data is encouraging and that the ministry must prepare for further immigration growth.

Unemployment Reaches 8.2 Percent in March

TA1904101889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 19 Apr 89 p 10

[Report by Jeff Black]

[Text] The unemployment rate climbed to 8.2 percent last month, accelerating the upward trend for this year as the effects of the economic slowdown begin to take root and the job market continues to contract.

This new rate matches the unemployment highs of the first half of 1986, the last time joblessness reached the 8 percent level.

A breakdown of the Labour Ministry figures released yesterday show that around one-fifth of the 33,500 people out of work for six days or more last month lived in development towns. In the north, Shelomi, Ma'alot and Migdal Ha'emek were the towns worst hit, while Netivot, Yeroham and 'Arad stood out as the southern region's unemployment blackspots.

Nationwide, 60,900 people registered with their local employment bureaus as looking for work in March, compared with 58,100 the previous month, which had then set a post-June 1986 unemployment high.

The employment bureaus only had 19,800 jobs on offer last month, of which 13,800 were filled by Israelis and 1,500 by Palestinians from the territories, thus leaving 4,500 vacant posts and 47,100 people still searching for work.

The number of people claiming unemployment benefits, seasonally adjusted, reached 35,600 last month, compared to an average of 33,000 for the first two months of the year.

Deputy Labour Minister Moshe Ze'ev Feldman warned yesterday that without the immediate implementation of policies for economic growth, unemployment would continue to grow.

But according to the Bank of Israel's quarterly survey of companies published earlier this week, the economic slowdown which apparently resumed in the first quarter of this year is set to continue over the second quarter. This prediction is based on the recent drop in orders both at home and abroad for the industrial, transport and hotel sectors.

The industrial sector intensified its cost-cutting measures over the first quarter of last year, which resulted in mass layoffs throughout this sector.

Disturbances Reported in Ma'an, Other Towns

Two Reportedly Shot Dead

JN1904142589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] AFP has reported from Amman that disturbances continued in Ma'an, southern Jordan, which is besieged by the Jordanian Armed Forces in the wake of the violent demonstration staged yesterday in Ma'an and the neighboring southern villages to protest against the high cost of living.

In accordance with the information received from Amman, two persons were shot dead in the disturbances that became more violent today. This is according to an AFP report citing eyewitnesses in the southern Jordanian city.

Prince Hasan Calls for Dialogue

JN1904125089 Paris Radio Monte Cairo in Arabic 1218 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan has called for constructive dialogue to tackle the social issues which resulted from the measures the government was forced to adopt in order to reduce the budget deficit.

Speaking to a number of journalists, including the Radio Monte Carlo correspondent, Hasan said that, first, calm and order should be restored before a dialogue can take place.

The Jordanian crown prince said that 300 persons demonstrated today in the city of Al-Karak, which had thus far not been affected by the disturbances. He also said that 100 students today demonstrated at the Jordan University in Amman.

Hasan reported some incidents, saying that yesterday he went to Ma'an after being informed of stonethrowing in the city. Following his arrival by helicopter, he mounted a Public Security Landrover and left for the city center where stones were hurled at his car. As soon as the demonstrators learned that the crown prince was in the car, they apologized. Prince Hasan added that yesterday he proposed to meet with some of Ma'an's representatives, who replied that they preferred an open meeting with him in the mosque.

When asked, Hasan said it is premature to emphasize the involvement of Islamic trends in these incidents. Prince Hasan wondered if it was mere coincidence that similar incidents occurred in 1974 when the Jordanian monarch was on a visit to the United States as is the case now. Hasan said 12 policemen and 6 civilians were slightly injured, indicating that there were no gunshot casualties. However, he did not rule out this possibility in the future since some demonstrators carry weapons.

Prince Hasan said there is a war in Lebanon and incidents in the occupied territories and we do not need to open a new division that distracts attention from the basic Arab problem.

2,000 Protest in Ma'an

JN1804152089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Eyewitnesses told AFP that approximately 2,000 demonstrators protested the high cost of living in Ma'an city, south of Amman, today. The same sources said the demonstrators attacked and set on fire four food stores owned by a well-known merchant.

Police Spokesman Denies Report

JN1804160189 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] REUTER, citing eyewitnesses, said that demonstrations took place today in the city of Ma'an in southern Jordan to protest the Jordanian Government's decision to raise prices the day before yesterday.

Eyewitnesses said that a group of demonstrators attacked a number of shops in the city and set some cars on fire.

A Jordanian police spokesman denied that demonstrations had taken place in Ma'an and said that there was absolutely no truth to the report.

REUTER official sources said Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan flew this afternoon in a helicopter to the city of Ma'an.

Further on Protests

NC1804162389 Paris AFP in English 1606 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, April 18 (AFP)—Nearly 2,000 demonstrators took part in a protest in the southern Jordanian town of Ma'an against the high cost of living, setting ablaze food warehouses, witnesses said.

Dozens of other shops and supermarkets as well as police cars were also attacked, they said, as protesters hurled stones and broke windows. The warehouses on fire belonged to a well-known merchant, and a bank over one of the stores was also damaged.

A local resident said security forces fired warning shots in the air to disperse the crowd, but inhabitants insisted that no one was hurt in the shooting.

At least two people have been hospitalized, a doctor at the state-run hospital in Ma'an said, adding that their condition was "stable." He provided no other details on their injuries.

Some 10 other people received first aid for light injuries caused by stones, said the doctor, who declined to be named. But they were later discharged.

The demonstrations erupted as King Husayn was in Washington for talks with President George Bush and senior U.S. officials.

Witnesses said an estimated 30 people were arrested, in what was the first demonstration of its kind in Jordan. Protesters shouted slogans against the government and the cost of living.

But residents of the town of 24,000 said demonstrators were blaming Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i rather than King Husayn for the country's economic difficulties.

Crown Prince Hasan and Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani have both travelled to the town, 215 kilometres (130 miles) south of Amman, residents told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The situation in the downtown areas where the disturbances erupted was later reported to be under control, as helicopters hovered overhead.

As part of a recent series of austerity measures, Jordanian authorities have decided to increase by 40 per cent the price of milk imported by the government and margarine by 23 per cent, officials said here Tuesday.

The government Saturday also raised the price of fuel, cigarettes and drinks and reportedly plans to increase meat, oats and corn prices.

Amman last week endorsed a five-year economic programme drawn up following two weeks of consultations with the International Monetary Fund on rescheduling Jordan's estimated foreign debt of 6.5 billion dollars.

Government Vehicles Attacked

JN1804182389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] The town of Ma'an, 220 km south of Amman, has witnessed riots. Demonstrators broke shop windows and burned some food stores. Flames spread to a Housing Bank building situated above the stores.

Demonstrators also attacked a number of government vehicles. Security forces intervened to restore calm to the town of 25,000 inhabitants. Eyewitnesses say that the demonstrators are estimated at approximately 2,000 and that the demonstrations were concentrated in the commercial center of the town and lasted 3 hours, after which the security forces restored calm.

The riots came after public transport vehicle owners' dissatisfaction with the government's action in raising the price of fuel without raising the transportation fees. Dissatisfaction was also caused by the 20-40 percent increase in the price of a number of commodities that was made to to reduce the budget deficit in accordance with the IMF demands.

Transportation Minister Khalid al-Haj Hassan has said that the government has decided to keep the same fares for public transport corporation vehicles in order to help the low income citizens. He said that fares for vehicles owned by the private sector will be raised in response to their demands.

Taxi, Bus Drivers Condemned

JN1804185389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Transportation and Communications Minister Engineer Khalid al-Haj Hasan this morning met with the leaders of the associations of drivers; transport sector workers; and owners of taxicabs, regular service taxis, buses, trucks, and refrigerated vehicles who voiced their understanding of the economic measures that were introduced to invigorate the national economy. They also expressed their satisfaction with the new tariff on transport fares. They also condemned the acts of instigation and riots carried out this morning by a number of drivers in Ma'an at a time when the government has already endorsed the new tariff.

Protests Resume, Spread 19 Apr

JN1904060789 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Southern Jordan has experienced for the first time social disturbances in the form of demonstrations, attacks on private and government buildings, burning of tires, and slogans shouted against the government and prime minister, who were blamed for the intense economic crisis. These demonstrations, which were started by taxi drivers in the city of Ma'an, spread to six other towns and villages in southern Jordan. The security forces cut off roads between the Aqabah port and the city of Ma'an. These forces also cut off the roads between Ma'an and Amman in the north.

Last Saturday, the Jordanian authorities raised the prices of several commodities, including fuel, in order to augment public revenues and curb the deficit in the balance of payments as part of the agreement struck with the IMF to reschedule Jordan's foreign debts. Let us listen to our Amman correspondent, Randah Habib:

[Begin recording] Southern Jordan remained until dawn today almost completely isolated from the rest of the Kingdom after the Ma'an disturbances spread to the towns of Al-Tafilah, Al-Shawbak, and Wadi Musa and to the villages of Al-Husayniyah, Al-Murayghah, Al-Hasa,

and Al-Jafr. Eyewitnesses said the desert road linking the city of Al-'Aqabah with Amman through Ma'an, 220 km from the capital, was closed at the two ends of the city as a precaution.

Disturbances began yesterday, Tuesday, in protest against the Jordanian Government's decision to raise the prices of some consumer goods, including fuel. An authoritative Jordanian source said the disturbances began when a number of public transportation drivers demonstrated to demand higher transport fares in line with the increase in fuel prices. Despite the Jordanian transportation minister's decision to increase fares as of today, Wednesday, demonstrations were resumed more intensely following the Ramadan month's break of fasting and spread to neighboring towns and villages.

Eyewitnesses said the demonstrators set fire to some banks and government buildings. They also set tires on fire and pelted cars with stones. Hospitals in the south have not revealed the number and extent of casualties. [end recording]

According to the latest reports, 17 persons were wounded in the disturbances.

'Security Cordon' Imposed

JN1904065489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The Jordanian authorities have sent reinforcements to the southern region following yesterday's disturbances. Reports say 4,000 demonstrators carried out acts of violence and riots in the city of Ma'an, where they burned four banks and several government buildings and damaged scores of cars. The demonstrators shouted slogans against the Jordanian Government and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i against a backdrop of the intense economic crisis.

A pall of heavy smoke hung over the region from burning tires and the demonstrations spread to the other towns in the south, including Al-Tafilah, where three bank branches were set on fire; and to Al-Shawbak, Wadi Musa, Al-Quwayrah, Ra's al-Naqab, Al-Hasa, Al-Husayniyah, Al-Jafr, and Al-Murayghah. REUTER cited a demonstrator as saying this is the intifadah [uprising] of the East Bank.

The Jordanian security forces used tear gas and rubber bullets to break up the demonstrations and seventeen persons were reported injured before telephone lines were cut off. A security cordon was imposed on the region and reports became irregular. Prince Hasan, the regent, accompanied by Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani and Public Security Director 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali, visited Ma'an yesterday. Following their return to Amman, an emergency meeting was held for senior security advisers and officials.

Jordanian Transportation Minister Khalid al-Haj Hasan said the fares of the public transport buses will not be increased despite the 22 percent increase in fuel prices, while fares of private buses and taxis will be increased as of today.

AFP Reports New Protests

NC1904105189 Paris AFP in English 1026 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Amman, April 19 (AFP)—Demonstrators burned tires, attacked passing cars and sacked public buildings Wednesday in the village of Al-Quwayrah, residents said, as protests against government-mandated price hikes rocked several south Jordan towns for the second straight day.

Jordanian security forces observed the protests from a distance but avoided clashing with the demonstrators, according to witnessess.

The unrest erupted Tuesday in the city of Ma'an, 215 kilometers (130 miles) south of Amman, and spread to the towns of Al-Tafilah, Al-Shawbak, Wadi Musa, Al-Jafr and at least five villages in the region, including Al-Quwayrah.

Demonstrators, mostly youths, set four banks ablaze in Ma'an and three in Al-Tafilah and attacked public buildings, witnesses said. They shouted slogans against the government, which agreed last week to implement austerity measures at the urging of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

At least 17 people were hurt in the Ma'an area in Tuesday's unrest, many of them lightly, and no deaths were reported. Witnesses said another 30 were arrested.

The disturbances came as King Husayn was in Washington, preparing to meet U.S. President George Bush later Wednesday for talks on efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, wherein Jordan is a key player.

The situation remained tense Wednesday in Ma'an and the nine affected towns and villages according to residents contacted by telephone. Security forces blocked the roads leading in and out of Ma'an, a city of 24,000, where sporadic protests broke out during the morning.

Police imposed a curfew on Al-Tafilah, home to 20,000 people 45 kilometers (27 miles) north of Ma'an, and the situation there was calm Wednesday morning, a resident said.

But "wide-ranging demonstrations" erupted during the morning at Al-Quwayrah village, 30 kilometers (29 miles) south of Ma'an, according to a postal employee there contacted by telephone.

The demonstrators burned tires, hurled stones at any vehicle that ventured into the street and sacked the post office, breaking windows and damaging telephone lines, said the employee, speaking on an emergency line that had just been installed.

But the luxury "Jet" tourist bus that runs several times daily between Amman and the southern port of Al-Aqabah remained in service, travelling on the modern highway that bypasses Ma'an, according to bus company officials.

The inhabitants of southern Jordan are mainly bedouins, unlike the north where most of the country's ethnic Palestinians live. The bedouins are traditionally strong supporters of the king.

The Jordanian Government decided Saturday night to raise the price of fuel and various other commodities by 20 to 40 per cent, in line with economic reforms urged by the IMF, to reduce Jordan's budget and trade deficits. Jordan, which has a foreign debt estimated at 6.5 billion dollars, has been in the throes of an economic crisis for the past year that has seen 45 per cent devaluation of the dinar relative to the dollar.

The demonstrations at Ma'an were sparked by taxi drivers demanding the right to hike their fares to reflect the increase in fuel costs, according to an authoritative source. The fare increase was approved by the government the same day and took effect Wednesday.

Curfew, Casualties Reported

JN1904111489 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1035 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The latest reports from Jordan say that a curfew was clamped on the city of Ma'an at dawn today and the security forces set up roadblocks on the roads leading to the Governorate of Ma'an from the north and south. Tanks, armored vehicles, and police cars were deployed at variable distances on these roads.

In a telephone conversation from his city, Ma'an Deputy Yusuf al-'Azm said about 25 persons were wounded in the Ma'an disturbances.

AP said among the slogans shouted by demonstrators in Ma'an and other towns in the governorate yesterday were: Down with Zayd al-Rifa'i; long live King Husayn. The agency said the banks whose branches were set on fire were: The Housing Bank, the Islamic Bank, and the Arab Bank.

The demonstrations flared up following the government's price increases.

AL-RA'Y: Government Raises Milk, Ghee Prices

JN1804122289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Apr 89 p 3

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—The Ministry of Supply has issued a defense order setting the price of imported "Halibna" milk powder at 1 dinar per 1 kg bag as of 16 April 1989. It is noteworthy that the previous price was 720 fils. It has been learned that the reason for adjusting the price is the increase in milk prices in the country of origin. Each bag of milk costs the Ministry of Supply approximately 1 dinar and 250 fils. The Ministry and citizens will share this increase.

On the other hand, the price of a 2kg tin of "Al-Ghazal" vegetable ghee has become 1 dinar and 250 fils. It was sold previously for 1 dinar and 30 fils per tin. This is due to an increase in the cost of raw materials in the country of origin.

Ministry To Maintain Bus Fares, Raise Others

JN1804140689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Amman—Transportation and Communications Minister Khalid al-Haj Hasan has said that in light of the the Council of Ministers' decisions during its session last Saturday on increasing fuel prices, the Ministry has decided to maintain the fares of the Public Transport Corporation's buses in line with the government's policy to support citizens with low incomes.

The minister added that 3 days ago, the Ministry also began to study increasing the fares of the other means of transportation in accordance with the increasd cost of fuel. Following consultations with the representatives of the union of the owners of public cars and travel agencies, the union of truck owners, the drivers' union, and the companies operating in this sector, it has been decided that the transportation fares on these various vehicles will be increased as of tomorrow, Wednesday. in view of the fact that the lists of these increases are large and numerous, they will be published in daily newspapers tomorrow.

Papers Comment on New Economic Measures

Need To Reduce Spending Cited

JN1804085389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Human Measures"]

[Text] The agreement between Jordan and the International Monetary Fund has called, inter alia, for reduction of state expenses and an increase in state revenues. The series of measures taken Saturday and Sunday by the cabinet tackled the issue of augmenting the government's revenues across the board. In the process, prices of many commodities and services, albeit not all very essential, were hiked. The next step would be to gauge

very carefully how effective these measures and decisions are in realising additional revenues for the country. There will always be a fear that the volume of such services and commodities would be affected negatively. That is why a close and persistent scrutiny must be applied by the concerned authorities on the after-effects of the new measures.

The other dimension of the Jordanian-IMF deal, namely, cutting down on the state expenses, has yet to be spelled out. One would expect that shortly this complimentary step will be taken in one form or another. It goes without saying that unless the state expenditure is decreased the realisation of the projected increase in revenues will not be sufficient. In this context, there are many options available to the government to reduce expenses, across the board, although some of them would surely cause hardships. This could take the form of stream-lining the state bureaucracy in general and freezing salaries for a number of years till the country overcomes the economic and fiscal difficulties that were imposed upon it in the aftermath of Arabs' failure to honour their financial pledges over the past 10 years.

In this vein, it pains all Jordanians to note that the belt-tightening that they and their country have to endure was the direct consequence of the withholding of Arab aid that was formally and official promised in the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit. Jordanians still entertain the hope that Arab states which pledged such economical and financial support would in due course honour their commitments. After all Arab words are honourable and cannot be taken frivolously. Meanwhile Jordan and Jordanians are left with no option except to continue tightening their belts till they achieve a breakthrough in their economic and financial situation.

The emergency measures that are forced upon us in Jordan, however, must always be conducted humanely and compassionately. The application of cold economical and fiscal policies must always be conducted in a balanced way in order to maintain and safeguard the moderate and humanist features of the country. Otherwise there will be very little left to distinguish us from the other countries which apply economic and fiscal policies without a human face.

Economic 'Self-Reliance' Urged

JN1804102089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Apr 89 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "Self-Reliance Is Better Than Depending on Others"]

[Text] The need to reduce the budget deficit, in addition to the special circumstances of this deficit, have required increasing local revenues and curbing expenditure. The government's economic measures, which began in the middle of last year, were introduced as general measures to help the Jordanian economy enter the stage of readjustment and rectification.

Increasing the prices of certain luxury products the day before yesterday was one of these measures, which have been studied very carefully and were based on accurate diagnoses. These measures do not affect subsidies, which cost the government about 60 million dinars.

National responsibility dictated by the circumstances of the current stage requires the participation of all citizens to guarantee the success of the measures adopted by the government to improve the financial and economic situation, achieve real growth rates in the gross national product, and to rely on domestic resources in matters pertaining to the state budget and the balance of payments. It is one of the basic duties of every loyal citizen to support the homeland, be conscious it and its issues, and suffer for the sake of its strength and honor.

With our citizens' awareness and patriotism, they have always been an example to be followed. Their awareness and adaptability have contributed greatly toward the successes achieved so far by the government's economic measures, which have achieved real progress appreciated and valued by many brothers, friends, and specialized international organizations.

The homeland is not an airport duty-free shop, nor a well from which we drink water and then move away—and some may have been ungrateful enough to throw a stone into this well. The homeland is everything we own, and even more. It is worthy of sacrifice to ensure it remains an impregnable house, a steadfast bastion, and a splendid achievement.

Hence, it must always be remembered that all means and efforts should be utilized to make sure that rights go hand in hand with duties and that duties should take precedence over rights when the national interest is at stake. Everyone should be as concerned about the homeland as a ship's passengers are concerned about their ship. Everyone should defend the homeland and pledge that he will allow no one to undermine the position he defends. While undergoing the stage of readjustment, we know that it has its own causes, motives, and justifications. We also realize that there are objective economic circumstances behind this process and that what we are experiencing is being experienced by many other states and peoples.

In Jordan, we have only one alternative—self-reliance—after the discontinuation of Arab financial obligations toward Jordan over the past years. The discontinuation has resulted in deficits and debts which must be corrected with economic readjustment and rectification.

Our only option is to make a determined effort to deal with the discontinuation of the financial obligations toward us. This can be expressed in an excellent slogan: Self-reliance is better than depending on others.

AL-RA'Y Urges Unity

JN1604110689 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Apr 89 p 1, 16

[Editorial: "A National Responsibility"]

[Text] It is taken for granted that implementation of the national economic and financial program agreed on by the Council of Ministers last Thursday [13 April] and which issued a number of decisions that are now being implemented, is a national comprehensive responsibility. It is not merely a responsibility to be shouldered by the government itself. In view of this, the citizens' duty to bear limited increases on a number of non-commodity supply goods is a national responsibility, in which we are all included. Therefore, shouldering these increases is a group contribution toward implementing the program and rendering it successful. This requires increasing domestic revenues and decreasing expenditures to reduce the deficit in the current general state budget. This way, there is no question of interfering with the government subsidies on basic foodstuffs, which are unaffected.

There is no need to remind people that rendering the program successful would keep the dinar exchange rate stable at its current value. It could also achieve real growth in the gross national product, rising to 4 per cent in the years toward the end of the program, if coupled with self-reliance in the general budget and the balance of payments.

It is therefore clear that our shouldering the limited increases, which have been imposed on some non-commodity goods, is an important element in the implementation of this program. This element is represented by increasing revenues. It is no secret that the government will, at the same time, attempt to attain the elements of this program. These elements are represented by decreasing governmental expenditure, controlling it, rescheduling foreign debts, strengthening the investment climate, controlling imports, controlling inflation, and allowing the private sector to strengthen its leading role in the fields of investment, production, and exports.

In this way, the strong cooperation between the citizens and the government to make the national economic and financial program a success is a necessity. There is no alternative. Undoubtedly, the purity of our united and close family is characterized by the determination to continue its progress, and the clear vision with through which it sees that its goals are the basic factors which guarantee the program is successful. These are accepted facts of which we are all proud and which deepen and strengthen our confidence in the future.

Our family, throughout its rich history, has gone through times which required unity of effort just as they required persistence and sacrifice. Our family managed to overcome these times, as strongly as can be, and reap more growth from more sacrifice. Undoubtedly, the stage of implementing the national economic and financial program has started, and will be a stage in which our family will translate the national responsibilities of which it is proud. During this stage, performance will be a group performance characterized by awareness and appropriate to the importance, demands, and goals of this stage.

East Beirut Deputies Call for Cease-Fire

NC1804155089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1314 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Communique issued by a group of 23 deputies after their meeting at the patriarchate seat in Bkirki, read by Deputy Edmond Rizq—live]

[Text] At the invitation of His Beatitude Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr, a meeting was held in Bkirki at 0900 on 18 April 1989, attended by 23 deputies. The conferees reviewed the situation in the country, discussed the information and reports available to them, and heard a report from the Lebanese Front leader on the Lebanese Front delegation's meeting with the six-member Arab committee in Kuwait. They were appalled by the dangers besetting the homeland, the state, and the people's lives. While they reiterate what was said in the statements issued by previous meetings in Bkirki, particularly the meeting of 17 March, the deputies announce the following:

1. They condemn the barbaric bombardment which has been aimed at civilian targets and mowed down defenseless innocent people. No one escaped this bombardment. It spared neither deputy, ambassador heading a diplomatic mission, nor intellectual. It struck at hospitals, schools, places of worship, clergymen, and public institutions, and destroyed the infrastructure, economic installations, and public utilities.

2. They call for an immediate and comprehensive cease-fire and for a return to the language of reason and dialogue. All parties must adhere to the cease-fire. The Lebanese Army should be responsible for implementing it in the areas under its control, while the Syrian Army should be responsible for implementing it wherever its forces are located and in the areas under its control.

3. They address an urgent appeal to the Arab League, the EC, the United Nations, the UN Security Council, and, in particular, to the UN Security Council member states, to intervene quickly with all effective means to stop the massacres and the barbaric acts of destruction and subversion to which Lebanon and its people are being subjected.

4. They express appreciation for the efforts of the six-member Arab liaison and goods offices committee and urge the committee to intensify its work and expedite its resolutions.

5. They thank the fraternal and friendly countries which were aware of the situation in Lebanon and rushed to support it and help its people, and they note the French humanitarian initiative.

6. They urge their fellow deputies everywhere to cling to the unity of the legislative institution and to pursue their struggle to enable this institution to carry out its fundamental role in restructuring a unified, sovereign, free, and independent state.

7. They hope that the media organs will refrain from escalating the campaigns which in most cases help intensify the shelling and cause more death and destruction.

8. They stress their firm belief that coexistence is the Lebanese people's destiny and civilized mission, and that the language of dialogue and understanding is their sole option. All Lebanese people must refuse the principle of resorting to the unjust gun and the blind weapon because violence has only brought destruction to the country and brought the people nothing but catastrophe and suffering.

9. Finally, the conferees announce that they will pursue contacts with the parties concerned in order to bring about peace and security in Lebanon. They also announce that they share until death the people's suffering and their work for the salvation of the homeland.

Al-Husayni Supports Deputies

NC1804183889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has declared his support for the communique issued by the Christian parliamentary meeting in Bkirki. The communique called for an end to the dilemma and asserted the importance of coexistence and the need for the Lebanese people to deal with one another through dialogue, rather than resorting to the gun.

Al-Husayni urged all deputies to respond to this stand and to carry out appropriate practical steps as quickly as possible to implement it. Al-Husayni appealed to all Lebanese to express their support for this stand in every possible way and to be alert to the perils of conspiracies. He emphasized that the time has come to display responsibility.

Demonstrators Protest Statement

NC1904110189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] A number of demonstrations were staged today to protest the statement issued yesterday by the [Christian] deputies meeting in Bkirki and in support of the battle of liberation declared by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn on 14 March.

At 0930, the sons of Kafr Shima and Al-Hadath staged a march to B'abda Palace in support of the battle of liberation and in protest of the deputies' statement issued in Bkirki yesterday. The demonstration then headed toward Bkirki.

The grouping of the sons of Jubayl staged a demonstration at 1100 today that marched to Bkirki in support of the battle of liberation and in protest of the timid statement issued by the deputies yesterday.

'Awn Addresses Demonstrators

NC1904115589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Addressing the demonstrators who came to B'abda Palace today in support of the battle of liberation and in protest of the statement issued by the [Christian] deputies after their meeting in Bkirki yesterday, General Michel 'Awn stressed that the age of brokerage and commission has ended and that there is no need for middlemen between us.

He said: The march belongs to the courageous. The confrontation should go beyond the doorstep of fear. I tell you today that the battle of liberation cannot be carried out by kissing hands and beards. It is a tough battle with confrontation, steadfastness, blood, and sacrifice. We are fighting in order to live freely. Freedom has never been given by embassies.

Patriarch Sfayr addressed the demonstrators and referred to Bkirki's role with influential capitals to bring about the evacuation of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon. He stressed that Lebanon is the country of coexistence between Muslims and Christians which opposes partition and breakups. He added that Lebanon can only survive with freedom and if freedom goes then there is no room for Lebanon's existence.

Further on 'Awn's Remarks

NC1904145289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Two demonstrations have taken place at B'abda Palace in protest at the statement issued by [Christian] deputies following their meeting at Bkirki yesterday. The demonstrators burned the Syrian flag in front of the Presidential Palace. Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn addressed the demonstrators. He said:

To sons of Lebanon, welcome to your home in B'abda Palace. This is your home, symbolizing your power and steadfastness. After today, there will be no separation between the head of the regime and the masses. There is no need for middlemen between you and us. Your voice is heard directly by us and vice versa, because the regime of commission and brokerage is over. The march of liberation and salvation is a tough one, and cannot be led by those who have lost the spirit of daring. It is the march of the courageous; namely, you.

In difficult days, no one has any choice but to be bold and daring, to tell the truth, and to attest to what is right. No one at all should have the right to speak if he speaks in fear of death. People must overcome the obstacle of fear. The conspirators, those who panic, or those who are misguided cannot have the right to make their voices heard, because they are the ones who have brought the country to this stage of surrender and defeat.

Gen 'Awn added: Today the battle of liberation cannot be waged by the kissing of hands and beards. It is a tough battle that involves confrontation, steadfastness, blood, and sacrifice. We are fighting to live as free men, and freedom can be attained only with sacrifices. Those who have been brought up at the tables of the embassies cannot feel free today. You are the generation of liberation; you are the homeland and the national will. They were brought up by a consul, or their grandfather worked for a high commissioner, or today they are associated with ambassadors. They are not liberating the homeland. They are surrendering it.

Gen 'Awn added: Today we heard that the U.S. secretary of state is cited as saying that his country is incapable of doing anything for Lebanon. Today let me tell you that this is the conspiracy. When a country like the United States is incapable of doing anything, this in itself is the conspiracy. The United States is not incapable; it is silent over what is being done to us. Tell the church wherever it is that it is supposed to stand by what is right and tell the truth, as Christ told the truth before Pilate, although the high priests handed him over for crucifixion.

As for the deputies, tell them that someone elected them 17 years ago and that you did not take part in the vote, so they have no right to represent you. Tell the ambassadors to inform their governments that we are a living people and not merchants. We are seeking independence and freedom. We are fighting terrorism and drugs, from which they are suffering and which should not exist. Tell them we are exporting civilization, culture, and love. As for terrorism and weapons, they come from you, so let them be returned to you.

'Awn Interviewed on War, Foreign Assistance

NC1404222489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1927 GMT 14 Apr 89

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by Voice of Lebanon Correspondent Tony 'Awn on program for expatriates on 14 April, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, today it is now one month since you declared the war of liberation. First, what has changed in Lebanon since then? Second, what has changed in the world with regard to Lebanon, and third, are you satisfied with this development?

[Gen 'Awn] We were dead on 14 March. People were marching at our funeral. We were in the coffin. There was a miracle, and we jumped out of the coffin and are now alive. That was the Lebanese situation. Visitors to Washington were asking the Americans: In your view, what are we? They replied: You are not on the list of our

priorities. They asked: Can we be on your list of priorities? No, they said, we do not have a clear policy yet, either toward you or the Middle East.

Another answer was: We have no administration. Well, what can we do, the visitors asked; they replied: Do something on your own. Now that we have done something on our own, they say: No, you have rushed, you have moved too quickly. All this is a lie to let the plot against Lebanon continue and ensure the capitulation of what remains of the land and the people.

On 14 March, we declared that we are alive and show signs of life. We asked the world to help us. Friendly France acted. Our expatriates, our beloved ones to whom this program is directed, acted in all countries. There is no need to list where because they acted everywhere. I call on them to continue this movement and to continue to sound the siren of danger because if Lebanon is not safe, then no one in the region will be safe.

As a people, the Americans are great, but their administration is not cohesive. It is not committed to principles but to interests. The American people are alive and committed to ideals and principles. Hence I appeal to them directly to help the Lebanese action abroad by urging the U.S. Administration to shoulder its responsibilities and cease its policy of narrow interests and adopt humanitarian interests based on principles for which the United States fights. Let not human rights and people's rights to freedom, independence, and sovereignty be mere words on paper.

The U.S. Administration's stand should be in line with these principles. Its battle against terrorism must be a real one. It should not patronize the Syrian terrorist role in Lebanon as it is doing now. Their battle against drugs should be a correct one. Let them not say Lebanon is a country of drugs, and then when we close the ports smuggling drugs and clash with forces protecting drug smuggling, say: No, you must open these ports and must accept a Syrian role in Lebanon.

The U.S. Administration is in conflict with the principles of the American people. The U.S. Administration is conceding the American people's dreams and ideals. In particular, I would like them to raise these slogans in the United States during the demonstration to be staged on 21 April in which Americans of Lebanese descent and the Lebanese will explain to the American people that their administration is not abiding by its declared principles. I call on them to open a Lebanon-gate, like Irangate and Watergate.

The Americans are not getting true reports because there is a media blackout. There is pressure for a news blackout. When their [former] secretary of state, Shultz, said: Lebanon is a country infected by plague which must be quarantined, this was the greatest historic heresy against the Lebanese because Shultz himself negotiated with Iran and Syria to release the U.S. hostages. Terrorism is under Syrian tutelage. It takes place in Lebanon with U.S. and Iranian encouragement. They negotiate over the targets among themselves.

If our country is occupied and under Syrian control, then why are we responsible for terrorism? Why does the United States not support Lebanon's liberation from the Syrian forces that patronize terrorism? This is the question that must be asked in the United States; then our issue will win out. But part of the administration has certain interests, which I do not know, and it is not acceptable for this part to wrongly dictate our fate here.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, the violent shelling yesterday and last night, before the Arab committee's appeal for a cease-fire, shows that Syria has turned from gradual escalation to a headlong declaration of war against Lebanon. Mr Prime Minister, has the dialogue with Syria reached a dead end?

[Gen 'Awn] Syria is not a country of dialogue. Syria has no security role in Lebanon; it does not even have a security role in Syria. The Syrian regime's problem is with the Syrian people, just as it has a problem with the Lebanese people. Syria is a terrorist regime. It killed citizens of two cities, 30,000 people, in Hamah and Hims. It killed political prisoners in Palmyra. It is responsible for many terrorist actions. It sponsors terrorism in Lebanon.

It is not a regime of dialogue, but one of killing, terrorism, and secret intelligence. We are not the ones who have brought things to the point of no return or to a dead end. There is nobody reasonable in Syria with whom to talk. There are no rules or sources which one can consider good ones with which to reach understanding. Syria is a country that only understands bombardment and killing.

This is not only Syria's problem with us, it is also a problem with the Syrian people. Its problem is not with Christians, but with Muslims. Who is hitting the southern suburbs? Who understands nothing but sowing sedition to make people fight amongst themselves? Who hit the Palestinian revolution? They were all hit by the Syrian regime. Why is it hitting them? Because it wants to control them. This is the plot: The Syrian hand from Sidon to the north, Syrian control of Lebanon, and Israeli control from Sidon to the South.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, after violations of three cease-fire appeals, why and when is Syria, in our view, going to cease fire, and why and when does it open fire in Lebanon?

[Gen 'Awn] When international pressure and scandals increase, Syria tries to deflect the situation in Lebanon and abides by the cease-fire, but after resting a while, Syria resumes pressuring us so that we submit and let our

will die. But we are aware of this, we are determined to go all the way. Syria's efforts will be futile. We are continuing the battle of liberation to the end.

From now on, we will do anything that harms Syria in Lebanon. Every Lebanese must hit Syrian interests anywhere in the world because Syria is a terrorist country and cannot be eliminated unless it is confronted by force.

The world must unite with us. Every country in the world is concerned with Lebanon's battle, not only for the human rights, values, independence, and sovereignty that our battle represents—and these are universally recognized rights—but because they are also committed with us to two basic aims that threaten every person in the world, whether he is Australian, English, or American.

Syria practices two serious things. The first is terrorism, kidnapping, and murder. You know how many planes were hijacked in England and (?Germany) and you know about the Pan Am airliner. You know about hijacked ships. All this terrorism was fostered by Syria.

The second serious thing is narcotics. How many families and individuals collapse because of narcotics? Do you realize that the poppies and hashish grown in the Al-Biqa' valley are processed in the region under Syrian supervision and protection and exported to the world? They export opium, morphine, heroin, and hashish. All of this harms people worldwide. Hence, every person in the world is concerned with our battle. We want to stop this type of trade and the processing of narcotics, because it threatens humanity.

[Tony 'Awn] Do you mean, Mr Prime Minister, that the war of liberation is a war against Syria everywhere in the world?

[Gen 'Awn] It is against Syria until Lebanon is liberated. If Syria wishes to practice terrorism, let it do so from its own soil, and not from our lands. If it wishes to grow narcotics let it do so on its own lands so that Mr Shultz [as heard] and his aides will know that terrorism emanates from Syrian soil and so that they will not use Lebanese soil to cover up their failure at the international level by saying that Lebanon is a terrorist country.

Every Lebanese, particularly expatriates, is humiliated by security organs throughout the world, in airports, and on international borders, because the Americans say Lebanon is a sourse of terrorism. Lebanon is never shown on television unless a booby-trapped car kills someone, unless a hostage is taken in Lebanon, or unless there is a smuggling operation from Lebanese territory.

We all know that the instigator, the sponsor, the nurturer, and the exploiter is the Syrian. Why are eyes closed to Syria and why are charges of terrorism or dealing narcotics pinned on Lebanon? Are they accomplices to a crime of framing a third party? We know that U.S. and international intelligence apparatuses know who is behind these crimes. Why do they not give the true picture? Why do we Lebanese have to take the blame?

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, according to military and diplomatic codes, every battle should be based on a certain strategy and on knowledge of the rival's capabilities. What is the political and military potential of the liberation war? What is the enemy's potential? In other words, what can Syria use against us in the long run, and what can we use against Syria?

[Gen 'Awn] First of all, Syria is not fighting on its own soil. We are fighting on our own soil, and are defending our rights through our people. Here we are stronger than Syria. Syria is stronger than Lebanon on Syrian soil, but weaker than us in Lebanon. We will overcome the Syrian regime in Lebanon, regardless of its potential capabilities.

[Tony 'Awn] What are the real figures for human and material losses in the Syrian ranks? What sort of reaction do you think there will be in Syria as a result of the liberation war?

[Gen 'Awn] Terrorism certainly controls the Syrian people, and getting them to fight against terrorism will not be easy. There is opposition outside Syria, and certain friendly Arab countries are fostering this opposition. I do not know what they can do. However, I would like to assert that yesterday there was grumbling among the Syrian ranks, particularly the 10th Brigade.

We monitor this with military listening equipment, and this is well known. Through monitoring, we learned of this grumbling and confusion within the Syrian Army ranks due to the casualties and the Lebanese Army's resistance. They are taking revenge on the Lebanese people because the Lebanese Army is shooting accurately and inflicting casualties among the Syrian forces.

We say to the Syrian Army and Syrian people: We are a brotherly and fiendly people. What are you doing to us? Why are you bombarding Tripoli? Why are you bombarding Sidon? Why are you bombarding Beirut? Why are you bombarding Juniyah? Why are you bombarding the mountain? What is the reason? Is it because we say we are a free people with a right to sovereignty and that we are a brotherly people who want to standing with them proudly? Is this our crime?

What is the Syrian regime telling the Syrian people? Are they telling them that 'Awn is a Zionist? 'Awn is the best and most honest man to rule in Lebanon. They are the Zionists. Their rulers are Zionists. Who serves the red lines, and who is serves the Syrian-Israeli understanding on Lebanon? What did [Israeli Defense Minister] Rabin say yesterday? If Syria does not cross the lines agreed on. [incomplete sentence as heard] That agreement was not

between 'Awn and Israel. The agreement is between Syria and Israel. The occupation of Lebanon is a Syrian-Israeli one and not an Israeli-Lebanese occupation of Syria.

[Tony 'Awn] Here we get to an issue being discussed by the people. They are saying that the great powers have sold us to Syria. In your view, how can we break this transaction?

[Gen 'Awn] We have broken the transaction. We have turned the tables and whoever is a here, well, let him try to hand us over to the one who bought us.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, what is the content of the U.S.- Syrian agreement on Lebanon?

[Gen 'Awn] I have not read about how they have sold us and how they want to deliver us. I know those who are delivering us. They are doing so with the siege around us and pressure on our will. We are resisting, and we will not let them deliver us.

I did not hear any clamor yesterday when Syria shelled three merchant vessels, thus halting international navigation inside and outside Lebanese territorial waters. Where is the free country called the United States when it is time to take a stand dictated by its duty and international charters and rules? Where are the permanent Security Council member states? This is the plot, and there will be no silence over it.

In the past, there was the question of the Tiran Straits [in the 'Aquaba Gulf]. When navigation there was halted, they permitted Israel to launch the 1967 war. They said that these were international waterways. Because navigation in the gulf was impeded, the Americans and Europeans dispatched fleets to escort the oil tankers. Yesterday Syria shelled civilian ships, not military ones. Two of them belong to Italy, and the third belongs to Greece.

Where is the United States, who claims to be the leader of the free world and guardian of international law, and who claims to play an important role in the Middle East? Has the United States in decline? This is how Lebanese all over the world see it. Is the United States in a stage of decline, or is America still America?

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, while we are talking about the United States, let us talk about Moscow. Some diplomatic circles propose opening lines to the Soviet Union to pressure Syria. What is your stand on this?

[Gen 'Awn] I do not have a negative stand toward anyone. On the contrary, I welcome any opening to the world that will help our issue. [passage omitted]

[Tony 'Awn] Are there now diplomatic steps with the Soviets to back the war of Liberation?

[Gen 'Awn] I am dealing with the Soviets on Lebanon in the same way we are dealing with any of the permanent members of the Security Council. Naturally, we are briefing them on what is taking place and are asking them to support our stand. We hope that the Soviet Union will [word indistinct] because the world is saying this is for the United States, that is ours, and so on. We belong to ourselves. We can be friends to the Soviets and friends to the United States without being enemies of the Soviets. We are outside the black and white classification.

Yes, we are a free regime, and we feel that we are at the heart of the free world more than some of the present U.S. officials. The Americans should not think that they are the world champions in defending the free world. We are defending the free world. They are shirking their responsibility and fleeing. We are the ones who are making sacrifices and dying in the battle against terrorism and drugs. They are [word indistinct], and history will not forgive them this crime.

We can be part of the free world and open to the Soviet Union and other countries and be friends with them, just as the United States is trying to reach an understanding with the Soviets. Why not us? [passage omitted]

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, at the governmental level, what, in your opinion, should have been done in the past to avoid the present situation?

[Gen 'Awn] What has happened has happened. It is not smart to now say how the current situation could have been avoided. We have seen the shortcomings and mistakes of past regimes. We are trying now to save those who are involved, but they [the Al-Huss government] cannot do it. I am telling them: Let us go to the United Nations in order to implement the resolution on Israel's withdrawal.

Salim al-Huss, for example, says: No, we will not go to the United Nations in order to get rid of the Israeli occupation. Imagine to what extent Al-Huss has become the prisoner of the game. He and the likes of him, such as Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, have survived on their hostility to Israel. Al-Huss, Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and the Syrian regime have survived by one-upping each other over their hostility to Israel.

Today we say we want to go to the United Nations in order to implement Resolution 425. They stand against us. Imagine how they have become the prisoners of the game, how much they are involved, and how much they are afraid of acheiving the goal on which they have built their glory and positions.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, on the French stand, do you believe that France has backed down, frozen, or become more cautious in its steps toward Lebanon?

[Gen 'Awn] Now sc
pressure on Francome say that the United States has put pressure on the Une, that I do not know who has put pressures. All this ited States, and that there is a series of informed of anyths journalistic talk. We have not been each state has its oing of this sort officially. However, wn circumstances.

We have said we w
asked for help fronant to liberate ourselves, and we have as much as it can.n friends. Each state is free to help us others, be they sta We cannot ask help and impose on much as he can. Frdes or individuals. Everyone helps as commitments to Lom this premise, I let France define its ebanon.

Our friendship wi
But France is givinth France is traditional and known. ing this friendship g more importance to and is cultivat- Any other state th now because we are in need of help. with Lebanon in tiat wishes to cultivate its friendship this friendship to the future will cultivate and develop We are a people the extent it helps us in time of need. extends his hands twho know gratitude. We know who a hand to us at thiso us in time of need. Whoever extends us in the future. Th time will surely meet gratitude from than the present-dais gratitude will be worth much more ay aid.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr P
after France, is mo rime Minister, which European state, ore sympathetic toward Lebanon?

[Gen 'Awn] Almos
Lebanon. France ist all of them are sympathetic toward ically expressing s taking the lead role and is diplomat- Europe, if we canit. However, all of Europe—united stand on the basis use this expression—has adopted a of which France is acting.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr F
Arab committee. Ir rime Minister, we now move to the discrepancies in th your view, what is the reason for the Damascus and Kuhe remarks by Shaykh al-Sabah in Israelis from Lebanwait on the withdrawal of the non- non, as he put it?

[Gen 'Awn] Perha
have reached a stps they have ultimately realized or situation in a way dage permitting them to express the to reality, becausecloser to reality. I do not say according today criticizing th as you know, we issued a statement fire. This statemene statement issued calling for a cease- tioned why. nt ignored many things, and we men-

[Tony 'Awn] Mr F
meeting yesterday rime Minister, following the cabinet Arabs will put pre , you expressed the hope that the extent can the Arabssure on Syria. In your view, to what actually exert this bs pressure Syria, and which state can pressure?

[Gen 'Awn] Look,
to exercise pressur all and no one. Each state that wants state, and yet it alee can do so. Lebanon is the weakest present. Not all ofone is standing in the face of Syria at Lebanon is standir Lebanon is standing. A small part of about the Arab wong and is capable of standing. So how orld from the Gulf to the ocean? If the Arab world is really homogeneous and really believes in the Arab League charter, nothing will prevent Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Libya—all the Arab world without naming each state individually—from adopting the correct stand in harmony with the Arab League charter.

As long as the Arabs do not have the courage to stand behind the Arab League charter and to say that the Lebanese problem is one of Syrian-Israeli occupation, they will remain unable to solve any inter-Arab problem. They will continue to fail to reach the goals of the Arab League charter. This is more dangerous than any foreign war against them. Any foreign war against them might unify them. However, the internal problem, which they have no courage to face according to agreed-upon texts and with absolute objectivity, is a real danger to them and more serious than any foreign war.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, are you prepared to visit the French capital, especially after the French foreign minister declared his readiness to receive you? Meanwhile, will Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also visit France?

[Gen 'Awn] I am certainly ready to visit the French capital. Maybe it is the closest capital to me considering my knowledge of it and of its people. I spent 3 years of my life in France and was trained in its schools. I lived among the French. I have no emotional, political, or social barrier. On the contrary, I have a desire to visit France, and I am ready to visit it.

Regarding President al-Asad's visit to France, I do not know if he has an invitation to visit it. I doubt there is an invitation.

[Tony 'Awn] [passage ommitted] Mr Prime Minister, what is your opinion of what our civilized army of Lebanese expatriates, as you have called it, has achieved on the front of the liberation war?

[Gen 'Awn] I called on our army dispersed throughout the world to act within existing laws to express its solidarity with Lebanon in its war of liberation war. I explained to those expatriates the situation prevailing here, which is unlike that in any backward country in the world. [passage omitted]

The United States says that Syria is on the list of terrorist states, and it recognizes Syria's security role in Beirut. How can a terrorist be given a security role in a civilized country like Lebanon. How can the United States give Syria 4 million hostages in Lebanon while it cannot tolerate the fact that there are four or five [American] hostages being held? By what logic is this possible?

This is what the expatriates are called upon to explain to the world. They should explain that it should not be possible for the Israelis to kill any of us at any time, or for the Syrians to do so. Our problem lies in the Syrian and Israeli occupation. These two forces must leave Lebanon

so it can regain its health and the Lebanese can sit around a table to solve their problems. As long as the two remain in Lebanon and the world keeps silent, Lebanon will remain tormented. [passage omitted]

[Tony 'Awn] The people are asking a number of questions. How is the supply situation in the country?

[Gen 'Awn] The situation is unpleasant, but is not bad.

[Tony 'Awn] Do you intend to conclude a joint defense pact with France and Iraq?

[Gen 'Awn] No. We do not intend to have a joint defense pact. Joint defense is part of a common Arab agreement.

[Tony 'Awn] Are there effective resistance movements in the areas of Syrian occupation?

[Gen 'Awn] There are resistance operations every day. Some of these are made public, and some are not.

[Tony 'Awn] Will general mobilization be announced if the war continues?

[Gen 'Awn] General mobilization is already declared.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, do you take necessary precautions to protect your life?

[Gen 'Awn] As much as possible. But I take risks when duty demands that I do so.

[Tony 'Awn] Mr Prime Minister, how do you see Lebanon 2 years from now?

[Gen 'Awn] In a state of development and prosperity.

[Tony 'Awn] Do you have any final words for the Lebanese?

[Gen 'Awn] I extend all love to the Lebanese expatriates in the world. We hope that those abroad will support the steadfastness of those who are here, and that whoever has nothing to keep him abroad will return to Lebanon—because Lebanon needs him.

Al-Huss Blames Military Government for Deterioration

NC1804112689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In an interview with Radio France International, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has said: We are asking our friends in the world to assist us in achieving a quick solution to our problem and in establishing peace in our country on the basis of national accord which recognizes a person's rights in his homeland. Otherwise, the Lebanese will continue to face extreme hardships.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: Our basic demand is to emerge from this ordeal for good. If this takes place and peace is restored in Lebanon, the Lebanese can take care of themselves.

Prime Minister al-Huss explained that there is a long-existing problem in Lebanon. More than 14 years have passed since the outbreak of the bloody events in Lebanon. It is time for this problem to end, man to regain his dignity, and this homeland to regain its unity on the firm basis of national accord and for reforms to recognize a person's rights in his homeland and to ensure the establishment of a capable and just state which is being sought by all Lebanese.

Answering a question about the existence of signs for an imminent cease-fire, Prime Minister al-Huss said: I become very sorry when I hear the news from abroad implying that a certain area is subjected to shellfire and not the other. Those who live here know and see that the shelling is sparing no one, and is affecting both sectors and all areas of Beirut. However, tendentious propaganda and misleading news regrettably give an inaccurate picture of what is happening in Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Huss added: All over Lebanon men face extreme hardship. There is no distinction in this between a Muslim and a Christian or between one area and another. In suffering, there is no distinction between eastern and western areas. Everyone is suffering and everyone is facing extreme violence because of the indiscriminate shelling and futile wars which have been fought in Lebanon for the past 14 years and which have reached their climax during the past few days.

Prime Minister al-Huss affirmed: Of course we seek peace and security and are doing our best to achieve a cease-fire. But this requires measures which, we regret to say, the other party does not approve. The military government party does not approve of the measures which ensure peace, security, and stability in Lebanon and guarantee a firm cease-fire.

Everyone knows that Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab good offices committee, has recently made an appeal for an immediate cease-fire and for reviving the central security committee and lifting the naval blockade. But the military government party stipulated that in order to revive the central security committee, the committee should be reconstituted so that it and Syria alone are represented on the committee. This, of course, is unacceptable.

Birri on Destruction of Beirut, Arab Committee

NC1804152089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Minister and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has emphasized that what happened during the past 48 hours was not a mere response to shelling but a fulfillment of General Michel 'Awn's promise to burn Beirut for the ninth time. Gen 'Awn got what he wanted, he said.

Minister Birri stated: What happened was a real tragedy. He declared that 32 shells had fallen on Dar al-Fatwa [Mufti Hassan Khalid's headquarters] and 8 on the Druze community headquarters. This is in addition to the destruction that took place in various areas and the fires that broke out in Al-Awza'i, he said.

Minister Birri warned that Gen 'Awn wants to get to the [presidential] palace and does not mind who ends up in the grave as long as he achieves his goal.

At a news conference today, Minister Birri criticized the Arab and Islamic worlds' disregard of the attacks on the nationalist areas. In affirming that the year of 1982 is repeating itself, he said: This is an Israeli invasion, but in a different form and with Iraqi support. He said that Israel wants to usurp the land in the South and help 'Awn and his clique at home, just as the occupation forces and Bashir al-Jumayyil coordinated their actions in 1982. He accused Iraq of supplying 'Awn with 240-mm guns and large rockets.

Minister Birri called for more coordination among the nationalist forces. He said that the means of steadfastness for the Lebanese must be ensured and that blackmail must not be given in to. He emphasized that the battle has transcended 'Awn and is now a battle with Israel. He stressed the need for the nationalist and Islamic forces to abide by what the Arab committee stated during its meeting in Damascus. He indicated that the Arab committee's work is not sufficiently serious because it has not insisted on the implementation of its chairman's appeal.

Minister Birri said: There are no red lines. We do not accept any former system and we will continue to struggle in every way. Let no one believe that a military solution can be achieved in Lebanon. There can only be a political solution.

Minister Birri affirmed that 'Awn has succeeded in doing away with all moderation in Lebanon. He said: This marks the end of the Maronite state. From now on, we will not allow a Maronite to be president from a Maronite standpoint; we will accept any Lebanese from any community on the basis of a new system. He emphasized that with the burning of West Beirut the Lebanese sectarian system has also been burned.

Minister Birri attacked Raymond Iddih, describing him as the great mandator [intidabi]. He described the call for a meeting of the Arab League Council as an evasive action. He said that the destruction of Beirut is one of the ways to exert pressure on the Arab committee. He stated that he is not optimistic about the committee's work, affirming that the issue is one of overthrowing Syria in Lebanon as well as overthrowing Arabism.

Lebanese Forces Command Council Issues Statement
NC1804183289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council held a meeting today under Dr Samir Ja'ja'. The Council issued the following statement:

For the 35th consecutive day, indiscriminate shells continue to fall on the Lebanese free areas, mowing down scores of people, wounding hundreds of others, causing the destruction of the economic, social, educational, and human infrastructure and paralyzing daily life. The purpose of this is to destroy the last bastion of sovereignty in Lebanon and to smother freedom in an area that has been and will continue to be disobedient to the Syrian occupation and its instruments.

The land and sea blockades imposed on the free Leba[illegible]se areas and the devastating daily bombardment—and no sooner does this subside for a few hours then it starts up again, even more ferociously—are tantamount to an all-out war of annihilation against the free Lebanese people. This war will not be able to prevent the people of our free areas from clinging to their freedom and independent decisionmaking until the last drop of their blood.

The Lebanese Forces, which laid the first brick in the building of the free resistance and which have been the primary supporter of legitimacy since the outbreak of war in Lebanon, hail the steadfastness of this brave people. This people is suffering the worst torments, sustaining the gravest losses, and offering the greatest sacrifices in terms of property, livelihood, bread, and blood—and all this amid a total loss of electricity.

This grave situation threatens to paralyze the production sectors which are continuing their work. The aim of this is to make our people kneel. It can be called the greatest organized crime of the modern age and cannot be justified by any norm or logic. It constitutes a political and military campaign in which the most hideous means are being used in order to achieve despicable aims.

The Lebanese Forces view what is now taking place as the ruination of a people whose only crime is to demand complete freedom, seek to recover their usurped sovereignty and legitimate right to a peaceful and dignified life, and insist on the departure of all occupying foreign armies, especially the Syrian Army, which has been engaged in destruction and subversion in our homeland for the past 14 years.

In their statement, the Lebanese Forces asserted that what is happening today will not weaken the resistance, nor will it make us surrender, because our right to the recovery of our independence and sovereignty is a non-negotiable, sacred right. The toll of freedom we are

paying today is our fate in this eastern part of the world. Our presence here has cost us dear throughout history. There is no question about choosing between freedom and humility.

French Ship To Unload Supplies in Larnaca
NC1904111789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] This morning Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Dr Kamal Muhanna and members of the supply committee to resume discussion on the questions concerning supplies. They also discussed the issue of transporting foodstuffs and medicines from the French ship "La Rance" to Sidon. It has been learned that because of the difficulty experienced in transporting the shipment to Sidon yesterday, it has been decided to unload the ship at the Cypriot port of Larnaca for onward shipment of its cargo to Sidon at a later date.

France's Kouchner Leaves for Home 18 Apr
NC1904065389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Bernard Kouchner, French secretary of state for humanitarian action, left Lebanon for his country last night. [passage omitted]

Israeli Officers Reportedly Wounded in Beirut
JN1804200389 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 17 Apr 89 p 1

[Text] Beirut—Party sources in East Beirut have revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that four Israeli officers, including a senior Mosad officer, received various injuries in eastern Beirut during the bloody battles broke out in the region during the night before last [15 April]. The sources clarified that the injured Israeli officers were transferred by an Israeli navy ship to Rambam hospital in Haifa.

The party sources added that the Israeli officers participated effectively in the bloody battles on the side of the Lebanese Forces, which led to their being injured, two of them quite badly. The injured Mosad officer held the rank of staff colonel.

Syrians Reportedly Resume Shelling East Beirut
NC1904110589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The Syrian occupation army renewed its shelling of the eastern areas 30 minutes ago. The Syrian forces are bombarding central Al-Matn, particularly the area of Brummana, with their artillery.

Algerian Embassy Suffers Direct Hit
LD1904143389 Algiers APS in Arabic 1418 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Beirut, 19 Apr (APS)—The Algerian Embassy in Lebanon has suffered a direct hit in a rocket attack. The savage and destructive shelling of West Beirut has continued now for 2 days.

The rocket hit the third floor, thus resulting in material damage only. The diplomatic staff and local employees are all safe.

Al-Asad Receives National Day Greetings From Bush
JN1804174389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a cable of congratulations from U.S. President George Bush on Evacuation Day. The cable says:

I would like to express my heartfelt wishes to you and to the Syrian people on the anniversary of your country's independence. Our mutual efforts to improve relations require us to work in good faith for the sake of our declared goals in achieving a peaceful solution to the tragic situation in Lebanon, eliminating terrorism, and reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli dispute through negotiations in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. I hope that next year with be a year of peace and prosperity for Syria and its people.

'Progress' Made in 'Normalization' of PLO Ties
PM1404132089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Apr 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Two Syrian and Palestinian Officials Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Progress in Normalization; Damascus Welcomes PLO"]

[Text] London—In a telephone conversation with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Damascus yesterday, a prominent Syrian official said that Damascus' doors are open to the PLO because Syria would welcome a visit by a PLO delegation to resume the contacts discontinued shortly after their resumption following the funeral of Palestinian commander Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) in Damascus last year. Meanwhile, a high-ranking Palestinian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that significant progress has been made in the normalization of PLO-Syrian relations.

The prominent Syrian official told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Damascus' doors were open to the PLO and to a delegation representing it. He added: "We have already said on many occasions that we would welcome it. One such occasion was when Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze raised this matter with the Syrian leadership."

The Syrian official said that talks during Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh's visit, scheduled to begin today, would focus on issues of common interest including the situation in Lebanon, the Palestinian question, and bilateral relations.

Asked if the Algerian minister's efforts would also include mending the rift in Syrian-Iraqi relations, particularly after reports that the Algerian minister would go to Baghdad after Damascus to complete his contacts, the Syrian official said: "Discussion of Damascus-Baghdad relations is out of the question, particularly since Iraqi officials are making statements pledging full support for circles and sides opposed to Syria's policy in Lebanon, such as the statement made by Iraqi Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Nizar Hamdun."

Meanwhile, a high-ranking Palestinian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "significant progress has been made on the normalization of Syrian-Palestinian relations, thanks to the efforts made by more several Arab and international parties."

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the main points, related to Syrian-Palestinian relations, discussed by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during the latter's visit to Algeria. He said that "the Algerian president discussed the issue at length with the Syrian president, and the Syrian president welcomed a visit by a Palestinian delegation headed by Yasir 'Arafat or other Palestinian leaders. President al-Asad emphasized that Syria had no personal reservations regarding anyone in the Palestinian leadership, and that its reservations concern certain positions and political moves."

He added: On the basis of the Chadli-Al-Asad meeting, the Algerian president invited 'Arafat to Algeria, and the visit actually took place on 29 March. The two held a meeting attended by Fatah Central Committee members Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) and Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid (Abu al-Hawl). President Bendjedid conveyed to them Syria's willingness to receive a PLO delegation.

The Palestinian official revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Vladimir Polyakov, head of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, told a prominent Palestinian official that Soviet Assistant Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov, who was in Damascus at the end of last week, discussed the question of the Syrian-Palestinian dialogue with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and that during the meeting the Soviet official told the Syrian officials: As long as there is a Syrian-U.S. dialogue and a Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, it is abnormal not to have a Syrian-Palestinian dialogue at the same time. Tarasov suggested that the dialogue be unconditional. The Syrian officials' response was positive. They informed him of Algeria's efforts.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leader Rejects UN Border Posts

BK1804144189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1436 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (AFP)—An Afghan rebel leader has rejected proposed U.N. military posts along the Afghan-Pakistani border to check the flow of arms to the guerrillas, a pro-mujahidin news agency said here Tuesday. The prime minister of the mujahidin's interim government, 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, warned that the decision to create U.N. border posts, which he said had been "unilateral," would have "unfavourable" consequences, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said. He did not elaborate on the potential "unfavourable" consequences, but noted that the border areas were under mujahidin control and demanded that "the existence of our Afghan government should be honoured," ANA said.

Mr. Sayyaf told ANA in an interview: "I hope that Pakistan will withdraw its agreement to the posts. And I hope the international community will also acknowledge the sensitivity of these steps." Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to an increase in the number of U.N. monitoring posts along the border at the U.N. Security Council in New York last week, which was holding a special session to debate accusations by Kabul that Islamabad was supplying weapons to the mujahidin. Pakistan has denied the charges.

Mr. Sayyaf said: "I hope Pakistan does not decide on such things under pressure. "Pakistan may agree to these measures," he added, but he challenged Kabul's consent on the accord.

Since last May, a 50-member team of the U.N. Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) has been monitoring implementation of Geneva peace accord signed on April 14, 1988, between Kabul and Islamabad providing for non-interference in each other's internal affairs. The accord paved the way for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, which was completed February 15. The interim mujahidin government was formed soon after the Soviet pullout.

Afghanistan has lodged about 400 complaints to UNGOMAP on alleged violations of the Geneva peace agreement by Pakistan.

Mujahidin Government To Form Air Force

LD1804144389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1319 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 18 (KUNA)—The interim government-in-exile of Afghan mujahidin has decided in principle to set up its own air force equipped with latest warplanes and equipment, according to mujahidin sources here Tuesday. This decision has been taken following receipt of offers from certain Western and Islamic countries to supply the interim government with sufficient number of military aircraft and allied equipment in order to give mujahidin a clout in their contending war with the Najibullah regime in Kabul, said these sources, who occupy important positions in the 7-party Afghan mujahidin alliance.

Preliminary work, they said, had alreay been completed and no sooner Jalalabad or any other major embattled city in Afghanistan fell into the hands of mujahidin, the proposed air force would come into being there. The Peshawar-based sources said that four Western countries and one Arab country had also offered to train 35 mujahidin pilots initially for induction in the mujahidin air force. These sources did not disclose the names of the countries which have offered planes and training to the interim government.

However, the offers had been made according to them in the light of the reverses suffered by the mujahidin at the hands of Kabul Air Force at various battle fronts. Particularly in Jalalabad, where mujahidin losses in casualties and equipment have been the highest.

The Kabul Air Force is playing a decisive role in repelling mujahidin attacks at different fronts ever since mid-February when Soviet troops and air force withdrew in accordance with the Geneva accords. The Kabul Air Force has played havoc particularly in the Jalalabad fighting where mujahidin had launched their biggest offensive in 9 years in an attempt to capture the eastern city, lying about 55 miles from the Pakistan border.

Kabul radio has reported that the aerial bombardment of mujahidin positions around Jalalabad had resulted in the killing of thousands of mujahidin but mujahidin sources have admitted only 400 casualties in the Jalalabad battle which is now more than one and a half months old.

Military Equipment, Food Convoy Arrive in Kabul

BK1804151289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1457 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 18 (AFP)—The first 200 trucks of a convoy of food and heavy military equipment made their way into Kabul from the Soviet Union Tuesday, witnesses said. The drivers of the trucks, which carried Soviet tanks and multiple rocket launchers as well as covered military equipment and some flour, said they had driven from Charikar, a town some 30 kilometres (18 miles) outside Kabul with little trouble. Mujahidin rebels had blocked the road from Charikar to Kabul for the last three days using heavy weapons fire, and hundreds of trucks had been held up in the town, military officers at the Kabul checkpoint said.

The convoy had set out from the Soviet border for the run down the Salang highway south to Kabul more than a week ago, and the mujahidin blocked the highway at two points, one north and one south of the Salang tunnel which cuts through the mountains of the Hindu Kush. Independent

military observers said here Tuesday they believed the government had used Soviet Scud-B missiles fired from Kabul in an attempt to clear the Salang road.

The Scuds so far have been used mainly in the defense of the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad, which has been under siege for almost seven weeks by the mujahidin rebels. A government spokesman said here Tuesday that in the last 24 hours the mujahidin had launched heavy rocket attacks on Jalalabad from four separate points, following them up with infantry probes. He said 18 civilians were killed and 21 injured in the attacks, which he said had been repelled.

Rebels Violate Ramadan Cease-Fire in 3 Provinces
LD1804170389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] An authorized source of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan told the BAKHTAR military section that the cease-fire announced by the republican state in honor of the holy month of Ramadan, is holding in all provinces except Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar provinces. The source added that yesterday, joint Pakistan and extremist forces launched a broad attack on Jalalabad city from the direction of Chaprahar and Samar Kheyl. The enemy attacks were supported by heavy artillery and missile fire of Pakistan's 11th and 18th divisions.

As a result, 18 residents were martyred and 31 wounded. The majority killed were women, children, and old men. Five houses, five shops, one public service establishment, and an oil tank were destroyed as a result of the enemy fire, while two members of the Armed Forces were martyred and five wounded.

Units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan launched retaliatory strikes, foiled the enemy offensive, and pushed them back. As a result of the shattering blows by the Afghan Armed Forces, 47 enemy troops were killed, 19 wounded, and 2 were captured. One enemy mortar, one weapons and ammunition cache, one BM-1, two trucks carrying weapons, and one gun were destroyed.

According to another report, yesterday extremist armed groups linked to Pakistan, supported by Pakistani Army militia and troops, encroached upon regions around Khowst from various directions. The enemy attacks were foiled by the security forces. As a result of artillery and air strikes by our Armed Forces, 58 enemy troops were killed and 15 wounded, including a ringleader of the extremist band, (Sher Alam). Two recoilless rifles and an enemy weapons and ammunition cache were destroyed.

Another report states that in retaliation for armed extremists shelling on Daman District, Qandahar Province, the Armed Forces carried out operations which resulted in 19 enemy troops being killed and 40 wounded; 2 enemy missiles and 2 DShK's were destroyed.

PDPA Paper Reports 36,000 Party Members Killed
BK1804155689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, more than 36,000 members of the Kabul regime ruling party have so far been killed in the fighting against mujahidin since the communist takeover. This has been stated by the Kabul regime's newspaper (Qayam) in Kabul.

Najibullah Receives Incoming Cuban Ambassador
LD1904063189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Kabul, April 18, BAKHTAR—President of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] Najibullah, received Bingo Perez Fernandez, ambassador extra-ordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba in the Gol Khana Palace here on Monday. During his audience, the Cuban ambassador presented his credentials to the Afghan leader. Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister of the RA and chairman of the Protocol Department of that ministry were also present.

Bangladesh

Rajshahi University Closed After Student Clashes
BK1804161589 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Rajshahi University has been declared closed from tomorrow 3 days before the scheduled Ramadan and summer vacations. The Academic Council of the university took the decision today, following clashes between two rival groups in the campus, in which 1 was killed and 20 others injured.

A university press release said ongoing examinations at the university center, scheduled for tomorrow and on Thursday, have been suspended. The examinations will, however, continue in affiliated college centers. The examinations at the university center will be held as per schedule from Saturday.

India

Gandhi Says Nepal Border Open, Welcomes Talks
BK1904033889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] The prime minister has said that the fate of an Indo-Nepal trade and transit treaty is entirely hinged on the attitude of the Himalayan Kingdom. Talking to newsmen at Patna Airport last night on his way from Vaishali to Delhi, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said India had allowed all Nepal-bound goods to pass through its borders even after the expiry of the last treaty so that the common man was not affected.

The prime minister said the operation of the previous treaty was not very satisfactory, and the recent imposition of taxes on certain Indian goods and compulsions for Indian nationals to have work permits in Nepal have made his government take a fresh look into the issue. He said India is ready to discuss Nepal's proposal on the issue with an open mind and added that Nepal is also fully aware of the Indian position on this subject. The foreign ministers of the two countries are in touch, he said.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said India has not stopped the flow of petroleum products to Nepal.

Meanwhile, the Nepalese prime minister, Mr Marich Man Singh Shrestha, has said that his government is always ready to discuss any problem with India, including trade and transit, in an atmosphere of friendship. He told newsmen in Kathmandu that India's suggestion for the venue and time for the talks will be acceptable to his government. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports that this is the first time that the Nepalese prime minister has spoken about Indo-Nepal relations after the expiry of trade and transit treaties between the two countries.

Dock Strike Continues; Emergency Rules Imposed
BK1804125889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Loading and unloading operations are badly affected at all major ports with the indefinite strike by dock workers having entered the second day today. The Calcutta Port Trust authorities have imposed emergency provisions to carry out essential work in Calcutta and Haldia Port Complex. The emergency provisions, which came into effect from this afternoon, empower the port authorities to take summary penal action against dock labor and port workers. It also allows the authorities to book unregistered workers for handling of goods inside the ports.

Navy, Army, and paramilitary forces are manning essential services in all the 11 major ports. Off-loading of coal, oil, and rock phosphates from the ships berthed inside the harbors was normal as it involved the mechanical handling. The chairman of the Visakhapatnam Port told newsmen that handling of five out of eight ships berthed at the port was completed with the help of naval personnel. The handling of iron ore and coking coal, however, was affected.

The situation in the ports is stated to be peaceful and no untoward incident has been reported. Prohibitory orders have been issued in the port areas as a precautionary measure. Security has also been tightened.

Arrests Mount Following Uttar Pradesh Violence
BK1804151389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, Prohibitory Order No 144 [banning assembly of five or more persons at one place] has been strictly enforced in Mathura and Kalpi Town following sporadic violent incidents.

An official spokesman said in Lucknow today that 12 persons, including 7 police personnel, received minor injuries when two groups of people indulged in arson and brickbatting in Mathura yesterday. Eighty-four persons have been taken into custody in this connection.

In Kalpi of Jalaun District, four persons were injured in a bomb explosion yesterday. Forty-six persons have been arrested in this connection. The spokesman described the situation as under control.

Gandhi, SRV's Giap Discuss Cambodian Situation
BK1804020689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The deputy chairman of the Vietnamese Council of Ministers, General Vo Nguyen Giap, now on a visit to India, had a long and in-depth discussion with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. According to an External Affairs Ministry spokesman, the ongoing developments in Kampuchea were covered in considerable detail by the two two leaders. They also discussed measures to improve bilateral cooperation in various fields including commerce, science and technology, culture, and human resource developments. General Giap presented to Mr Gandhi a bust of Ho Chi Minh.

Polish Leader Seeks Aid in Industry, Agriculture
BK1804092889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] The vice president of Poland, Dr Tadeusz Szelachowski, has said India's progress in the industrial and agricultural sectors could be of great help in the economic development of Poland. The Polish leader is on an 8-day visit to India at the invitation of the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, Dr Szelachowski said that his country is facing high inflation and external debt. Poland is interested in seeking India's assistance and expertise in industrial and agricultural fields. He said during his talks with Indian leaders, he had apprised them of the constitutional and economic reforms that are taking place in Poland. The Polish leader held discussions with the president, Mr Venkataraman; the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi; and other leaders.

Appreciating India's leading role in the Nonaligned Movement, the Polish leader said his country fully supports Prime Minister Mr Gandhi's proposal at the United Nations for a nuclear weapon-free world.

Concern Expressed Over 'External Debt Trap'
BK1504085089 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Apr 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Debt Situation"]

[Text] It is a matter of deep concern that amidst the euphoria over an economic upturn essentially triggered by a good monsoon, the country is failing to see the

warning signals on the external debt front. That India's external debt is only behind that of Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, where it has played havoc with their economies, must make the Government sit up and take timely remedial measures. Even going by the Government's own estimate of medium and long-term debt on government account, IMF loans and external commercial borrowing, the total external debt today is over Rs 70,000 crore [700 billion rupees] (excluding short-term debt).

This puts us close to Argentina, the world's third largest debtor nation. Yet, neither the Economic Survey nor the Reserve Bank has taken adequate notice of this alarming situation. The level of debt service, including interest and amortisation, on this debt during the current year is expected to account for about 24 percent of current receipts, as against 17.6 percent projected for the Seventh Plan period.

There is no gainsaying that unless the efficiency in the use of capital is improved the debt service level will grow further. The high capital output ratio is an index of the inefficient use of capital. Unfortunately, while the Government has been going out of its way in getting loans from various sources, the generation of surpluses to service the massive loans is not of a high order. Not only is the mobilisation of resources through the public sector very sluggish, but the balance of payments position is alarming, with the trade deficit for 1988-89 estimated at Rs 9,000 crore and the net flow of funds into the country on foreign currency non-resident account decelerating.

Mercifully India's credit rating is high but indiscriminate loan taking and imports can catapult the country into a grave exchange crunch. It would indeed be foolhardy to rest content over the good credit rating and to pay no heed to the warning signals of an external debt trap.

9.5 Percent Power Generation Growth in 1988-89

BK1604095989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] The country registered a 9.5 percent growth in power generation in 1988-89. It generated 10 lakh kilowatt hours of power during the period. The maximum contribution was made by the western region followed by northern and southern. Only nuclear power exceeded its target by generating 5.8 percent more, whereas hydro and thermal power generation fell short of their target by 0.4 and 3.4 percent.

Iran

Velayati Comments on Upcoming Geneva Peace Talks

NC1904055589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati spoke to correspondents last night about the fifth round of talks on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. He expressed hope that the Iraqi side will display more initiative in this round of talks.

The Central News Unit reports that in another part of this interview our foreign minister described the need for Iraq's withdrawal to international borders as definite, necessary, and not negotiable. He added: With the withdrawal of the forces, the rest of the resolution's contents will be rapidly implemented.

Our foreign minister also said: If Iraq observes resolution 598 and the 1975 border agreement, we will not have any difficulties in implementing the resolution and the Arvand River [Shatt al-Arab] can easily be dredged.

Iraqi Withdrawal 'Key' Issue

LD1904061489 Tehran IRNA in English 0600 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today expressed the hope that the Iraqi delegation to the Geneva peace talks will demonstrate its decision making power. Velayati made the remark before leaving for Geneva early this morning for the fourth round of peace talks to start Thursday. He also hoped that the Iraqi delegation to the talks will stop interpreting the paragraphs of the U.N. Resolution 598 to suit their own interests and wishes.

As for prospects of the talks and the optimism expressed by the U.N. chief, he said the latest statement of Javier Perez de Cuellar is more positive than the previous ones. This may stem from his talks with Iranian and Iraqi teams which might have given him the impression that Iraq will show the necessary flexibility in this round of talks, he added.

Velayati expressed hope [Perez] de Cuellar's optimism will materialize during the talks. Velayati said withdrawal of troops to international borders was a must on which there can be no negotiation. "Without withdrawal of troops cease-fire will have no meaning. It is the key to other issues," he told reporters.

On the issue of Arvand Rud (or Shatt al-'Arab), he said Iran sees no problem and the river is the frontier line between the two countries with common ownership. The Thalweg line defines the Iran-Iraq frontier line, said Iran's foreign minister. He added the river can be cleared on the basis of the 1975 agreement but regretted that Iraq was creating unnecessary problems over the issue and thus prolonging the peace talks.

On U.N. Security Council role in Geneva talks, Velayati said it could play a more constructive role in backing the U.N. chief and for implementation of the resolution 598. It should have forced Iraq to withdraw to international border, he added.

Arrives in Geneva 19 Apr
LD1904084289 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Geneva, April 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here at 08:30 hours local time today to take part in the fourth round of U.N.-sponsored peace talks on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598. A group of Iranian experts and officials are accompanying Velayati. The previous three rounds failed to achieve substantial progress to obstacles created by Iraqi delegation. Iranian officials have called for the talks to be serious and fruitfull.

Velayati in an interview before leaving Tehran today, expressed hope that the Iraqi delegation would not be partial in interpreting the articles of the resolution. The negotiations are to resume later today under direct supervision of Secretary General Javier Peresz de Cuellar.

More on Majlis Speaker Armed Forces Day Speech
LD1804135389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Excerpt] Ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, were staged in Tehran's Azadi Square this morning in the presence of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Majlis; the representative of the imam in the Armed Forces; commanders of the Armed Forces, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the security forces; military attaches of foreign embassies in Tehran; the respected families of martyrs, POW's, self-sacrificing war-wounded, and those missing in action; and the martyr-nurturing ummah of Tehran.

In these ceremonies, acting commander in chief Hashemi-Rafsanjani congratulated the Armed Forces on the occasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces Day, and noted that this day is a destiny-making day and a turning point for the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Armed Forces. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the fact that everyone realizes that the Armed Forces must remain as a part of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that the fictitious belief in the dissolusion of the Armed Forces and their replacement by other forces is merely a myth created by the enemies of Islam. He added: The point on which we can count, after the passing of 10 years, is that this system and the Islamic Revolution offers more blessings and better opportunities for the personnel of the Armed Forces than any other system.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces added: The evil Pahlavi rgime considered the Armed Forces as the guardian of its own interests, and if this idea had ever been realized, the Armed Forces personnel would have had to pay very dearly—that is, a section of the population of this country would have had to safeguard the interests of the enemies of this country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, noted that the Armed Forces personnel joined the ranks of the people at the time of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran led by the imam of the ummah. He said: The revolution changed the path which had been carved out for you, the Armed Forces personnel, and which led to hell, and drew it toward paradise.

The speaker of the Majlis added: The revolution turned that path which had been arranged for you and which separated you from the people, toward a direction that made you support the people, your religion, and your aspirations. The plan which the enemies of Islam and global arrogance had for you differed greatly from the plan they had for others. And they are still entertaining futile thoughts. Last year, on a day such as this, we saw how they attacked our oil platforms in the Persian Gulf, and how you, the Armed Forces men, the Guards Corps, and the rest of the Armed Forces, fought bravely, and with your holy defense made the enemy despondent, just as you always did.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces pointed to the importance of an ideological-political unit in the Armed Forces, and said: The ideological-political unit in the Armed Forces is the guardian of the principle investment of your safety and well-being, and more attention should be paid to training and instructions.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, at the end of his remarks, said: On the basis of fraternal unity with other forces, you were able—in the course of 8 years of imposed war—to foil the greatest aggression of the enemy. And today, the people are happy that their Armed Forces are protecting and safeguarding their principle interests as strongly as sheets of steel. We should also note that we owe this bounty to the blood of our martyrs. [passage omitted]

Majlis Amendment Plan Push for Ahmad Khomeyni
TA1804192389 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] While the two confiscated newspapers, ETTELA'AT and KEYHAN, reported on 16 April that 130 Majlis deputies wrote a letter to Ruhollah Khomeyni calling for changes in the Constitution, ABRAR and JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reported on 17 April that 166 Majlis deputies had called for such amendments.

By sending this letter to Ruhollah Khomeyni, these Majlis deputies are striving to prepare the ground for Ahmad Khomeyni's presidency following Ruhollah Khomeyni's death. The deputies have realized that in the event of Ruhollah Khomeyni's death, rival factions in the ruling circle and in the Council of Guardians will never give any consideration to Ahmad Khomeyni or assign him any role.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Arrives for Talks

LD1904075889 Tehran IRNA in English 0652 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Minister of construction in the interim Afghan government Burhanuddin Rabbani arrived here early today to discuss latest developments in Afghanistan, with Iranian officials. Rabbani who is also head of the Jamiyat-e Eslami (Islamic Society) party of Afghanistan will confer with representatives of Tehran-based eight party coalition.

Meanwhile, representative of the Afghanistan "Itifaq Shura" (Reconciliatory Council) Mahdavi stationed in Peshawar arrived here today to discuss further coordination among military Islamic groups in Afghanistan.

SAIRI Head Condemns Iraqi Border Evacuation

LD1704134589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The head of the Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], in a visit last night to Iraqi POW's in a Tehran camp, severely condemned the Iraqi regime's decision to evacuate that country's frontier strip up to a distance of 70 kms. It declared that these crimes are not confined to northern Iraq and that the regime intends to completely change the country's social structure by moving the residents of southern Iraq and replacing them with 100,000 Egyptian families.

He exposed the nature of the Arab Cooperation Council, which is comprised of Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, and North Yemen, and added: The Council, which was formed under an economic cover, in reality has military and security aims and intends to suppress the region's Islamic movements.

Editorial Sees 'Crisis' in Relations With FRG

NC1904061289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "EC Cannot Hope To Gain Much From Somersault"]

[Text] According to Radio Cologne, a spokesman for the West German Foreign Ministry this past Thursday announced that the German ambassador or charge d'affaires will not return to Tehran until further notice. This statement, however, has been contradicted because in fact the charge d'affaires of West Germany returned during the past week to his mission in Tehran.

All the ambassadors of the member-states of the European Economic Community (EEC), which have diplomatic relations with Iran, with the exception of France and West Germany, have indeed now returned to Tehran. The return of these EC envoys was announced after an EC session March 18 in Brussels. It was decided at this session that the member states could take immediate decisions on sending or not sending back their envoys to Tehran.

Looking back a bit, we know it was the fatwa [religious edict] of Imam Khomeyni on the execution of Salman Rushdie on February 15, that resulted in souring relations between Iran and Western Europe to a critical point. Apparently, the EC later supporting the British government's decision, recalled their ambassadors from Tehran. But what was most surprising of all in the Irano-European crisis was the severe stance taken by West Germany against Iran.

It was surprising because during the ten years that have passed from the life of the Islamic Revolution, Tehran-Bonn relations were always good, and in fact the Federal Republic was the largest trading partner of Iran. Moreover, the West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher visited Tehran several times. Iran imagined that during the period of post-war reconstruction in the Islamic Republic, West Germany would have the largest share of business.

But apparently the Chancellor Helmut Kohl and particularly Mr. Genscher were and still are under severe pressure from their allies, especially the United States and Britain to limit their relations with Tehran. These pressures applied on Bonn have bent its back forcing it to knuckle under to its allies. Mr Genscher and his party also want, in some way, to reduce their domestic problems by creating a crisis in relations with Iran.

It should not be forgotten that Mr. Vernon Walters, the experienced and prominent diplomat of the United States, has been appointed U.S. ambassador to Bonn. He has a particular enmity towards the Islamic Revolution and hence this can explain a lot.

Under these circumstances, the Tehran government is following a policy of wait and see. But surely this policy cannot last very long. This is due to the fact that economic relations cannot be expanded at a time when the political relations are at such a low level.

According to available reports, many of the EC envoys who have returned to Tehran during the past two weeks, are preparing themselves for expanding their countries' economic relations with Iran, and snatching a portion of the German share in the Iranian markets. Japan, as the long-time rival of West Germany, has enjoyed a relatively better position in this respect during the past two months.

What will happen eventually is still to be seen, but the leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni, has said, relations with the West, or their cut-off, has no importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran. What is important is the preservation of the basic principles of the Islamic revolution.

KEYHAN Cited on Student Expulsion From UK

LD1804173289 Tehran IRNA in English 1508 GMT 18 Apr 89

[Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA—The British have their own interpretation of freedom, and nowhere was it more pronounced that when five Iranian students were ordered out of the isles for participating in a rally and that too with police approval against "The Satanic Verses."

According to a report in an English daily today, of the five students expelled recently from Britain, four were graduates and one an undergraduate.

"What sort of democracy is it when they allow Islamic sanctities to be offended while mere authorized participation in rallies end up in deportation without giving the one in question the right to appoint an attorney," KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL quoted one of the Iranian deportees as saying. Apostasy carries death penalty in Islam, and in line with divine laws, the leader of the Islamic revolution decreed author Salman Rushdie's execution on February 14, for having insulted Islam and the almighty's final prophet to mankind, Mohammad (peace be upon him).

Justice-lovers around the world applauded Imam Khomeyni's timely fatwa afer the Satanic work spilled blood in Pakistan and India, but what came as a horrifying shock for the civilized world was the British Government's rushing to the side of a public enemy with a price on his criminal head.

Born to Muslism parents in Bombay, the self-confessed apostate has become Britain's blue-eyed boy, and as one student believed "the novel was published under British patronage and in their interests."

The daily quoted another student as saying that "the issue is somehow related to Iran's acceptance of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598," whose implementation it is hoped will end for good the Ba'thist regime's aggression.

"The Satanic Verses" was the latest plot by world arrogance and a bid to "isolate both Islam and the Islamic Republic," added the student. He also urged Iranians studying abroad to continue voicing their support for the world's oppressed. The Thatcher government whose misleading of the 12 member (West) European Community (EC) ended in disaster with rupture of ties with Islamic Iran, has since been deporting batches of Iranian Muslims from the British Isles.

Musavi Chairs Economic Council Session

LD1704203189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] In continuing study on the country's extensive plan for economic, social, and cultural development, the Economic Council met this evening, chaired by Prime Minister Musavi. In the course of the session, the council previewed the country's expenditures for the next 5 years. These comprise expenditures for education, health, social welfare, universities and higher education institutes, aid, state subsidies, other current expenditures of various organs, and development expenditures on the basis of future monetary policies of the government.

These planned expenditures were approved at this stage. The council also reiterated that inflation control will be given top priority by the government. The council also stressed the need to fix prices of essential goods and public services during the next 5 years.

* Political 'Intermediaries' Accused of Sedition

WA194142289 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 13 Nov 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] One of the political incapacitates, who is the personification of the kind of "intermediary" whose danger has been mentioned and warned against, by the latest words of the imam, gave a so-called speech recently in a city. This was at a gathering of gullible people who are not aware of the evil intentions of "intermediaries." He said whatever he wished against one of the first rate and high officials of the regime and concluded that "finally you'll find out that I and those of my faction are right in knowing him as a bad person."

I do not mean to waste my ink and paper or your time and mine with the things that this "intermediary" said at that gathering. I just want to point out that unless the identity of these troubled people is revealed and they are purged from both factions, no problem will be solved and the "Charter of Brotherhood" will be grounded as many of imam's guidances.

Nowadays, precisely those whose designs are threatened and who know that no one will pay heed to their assertions are the ones who are upset with the Charter of Brotherhood. These are the troubled people who see their survival only in their roles as political intermediaries. They know that if this role of intermediary dies they, also, will come to the end of their lives. These intermediaries are found in both factions and whichever faction thinks that it is void of these troubled and destructive agents should know that it is gravely mistaken.

Seditiousness is the most common work of these intermediaries. They conduct their work any way they can even by playing with the most sacred and compromising noble people. A clear example of these seditious acts, which took place recently, is the noticeable investment by intermediaries to reproduce a confidential note written by one of the noble people to a responsible official. The intermediaries' attempts in recent months to publish and publicize this note, in an extended way, and spread rumors about was so extensive that—aside from reproducing hundreds of thousands of copies of the note inside the country—they also sent some abroad, even to some reputed radios of colonialism that broadcast it.

The style of these intermediaries in this regard was such that they would go around asking people, "By the way, have you seen the letter of Mr .... to ....?". If a negative response was given they would shake their heads and say, "Amazing, then you are not au courant of this situation. There are many things in this letter and nothing is left of the reputation of the recipient."

No matter who the listener, the inevitable feeling of eagerness to see the letter—by all means possible—would be prevailing. That intermediary, after giving out prefabricated and poisonous propaganda, would put a photocopy of the note at the disposal of the listener. This is still being done and is precisely in line with that so-called speech that we mentioned in the beginning of this article.

What was the content of this note? Some reminders, most of which have nothing to do with the official who received the note, and some others that are based on incomplete information and the rest are either impractical or the subject of disagreement among the noble ones. These are the contents of that note or, as the intermediaries say, the "letter." You see that such a thing, even if printed in newspapers, would not be damaging to the reputation of that official in the judgment of people.

More interesting is that the noble person who wrote this note was quite upset when he found out that some people have reproduced the [note] and, here and there, conduct propaganda about it! Naturally there is room for surprise because if that noble person had wished that the contents of the note be publicized he could have done this better than anyone else and would have done so. The interesting point is that these intermediaries, by doing this, have shown that they believe: The gentleman does not understand how useful the publication of this letter is—for Islam and the Revolution—and only we know this better!

This is a clear example of intermediaries' injecting pessimism. This is deadlier than any poison for Islam and the Revolution and for "bringing the serving position of factions closer together." If one realizes that one should share what has come to one's mind, or present what others have suggested to a responsible official or to write to him, so that the official can also think about it, and if practical, adopt it or if not, explain and clarify, then this is the wise and objective way of exchanging ideas. But, when intermediaries—by heavily investing their money, time, and propaganda on the subject—engage in deceiving work, then not only nothing would be resolved, but also suspicion and division among factions would be created as well. As a result, Islam, the revolution, and the people who love these two will suffer.

These are naked facts that show there should not be a moment of hesitation in cutting off the hands of political intermediaries and both factions loyal to the revolution must, seriously and without any qualms, purge them. Both factions must know that this is following the imam and acting in accordance with the Charter of Brotherhood, not engaging in rhetoric and only praising the Charter of Brotherhood.

* Majlis Members' Objections

WA194145089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Nov 88 p 6

[Text] A letter has also been issued and signed by over seventy members of Majlis addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyed 'Ali Khamene'i—publisher of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper: Gracious brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i, respected publisher of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper:

Greetings. Considering that you are a distinguished person, a renowned clergyman of this country and for many years have devotedly worked for the realization of the goals of Islam, we would like to bring a matter to your attention. On Sunday, 13 November 1988, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI printed an article titled "Letter" at the beginning of which an assumed and anonymous political entity was the target. Henceforth, with this fictitious excuse, it attempted a blasphemous and accusatory attack on one of the great personalities of the Islamic Republic without mentioning his name and title, but indeed, without any need for introduction of this person.

This "letter", that apparently is the writing of Rashidi-Motlaq, prompted us to request you, dear brother who have your heart in the exaltation of Islam, spirituality and antecedence, to clarify what people should do with this newspaper. A newspaper that draws its credibility from your name but tries to defame some of the greatest personalities of this country and, in many instances, has made even you yourself a target of its poisonous attempts.

Signed: Beytollah Ja'fari, Qader Sharifzadeh, 'Azimi, Mohammad Reza Rahimi, 'Ali Movahedi-Savoji, Hoseyn Sobhaninya, Hoseyni- Sirjani, Zarringol, Nabiollah Raji, Ahmadnejad, Parvaresh, Seyed Hasan Shoja'i, Arbabi-Fard, Za'eri, Seyyedzadeh, Akrami, Haji-Naseri, Mohammad'ali Shahidi, Parto, Fazayeli, Afrazideh, Mohammad Reza Tavasoli, Mostafa Morsali, Shahriari, Shahraki, Reza 'Abdollahi, Sadeqi-Azad, Fazel-Hamedani, Damadi, 'Ali Akbar Nateq- Nuri, Rohanizadeh, 'Amid Zanjani, Partovi, 'Arab'ameri, Ahmad Zamanyan, Kazem Dinan, Kheyrkhah, Vahid Ahmadi, Bani-Hashemi, Musavi-Nanehkaran, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Taheri, Yunes Mohammadi, Blukyan, Asadollah Tabe', Tabatabayi, Abdolsaheb Taheri-Musavi, Musavi, Khalil Movashah, Emam-Musavi, Mahluji, Fadayi, Dr Sheybani, Eslami, Hoseyn'ali Ziayi, Hashem Hejazi, Hojrati and over 20 other illegible signatures.

* Article Attacks Intermediaries

WA194150089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Nov 88 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Is it not true that "leeches" are supposed to suck the last drop of blood of the last deprived person of this land? Then, hold your breath. Let the ink of your pens freeze from the cold fear of "leeches." Do not write about thieveries, do not write about lootings, do not write about flatteries, do not write about inhumanities, do not write about hypocrisies do not write about the modern version of discord under the disguise of religion, do not write about the mask covering the faces of "leeches" and "intermediaries" to impersonate supporters of theocracy and jurisprudence.

From the five pages of the imam's letter regarding the Charter of Brotherhood write about anything but never write about "intermediaries"....do not write so that "intermediaries" can easily go wherever they wish, tell whatever lie they want, make whatever accusation they desire, make any assertion they choose, spread whatever rumor that may help them achieve their goals, introduce whomever they pick as "servant" and whomever they do not as "traitor" and use the most eminent of peoples in order to achieve their goals and clear the path for sucking more blood of the deprived. Intermediaries have insatiable appetites. They are like hell in eating and still asking for more.

This appetite has not been satiated, in 8 years of war, by taking commission from "leeches" and now they seek to rule. Acceptance of the resolution was the reason why Resolution 598 came into sight and it is the certain mission of intermediaries to seek revenge on these heart attacks from the revolution.

Intermediaries know very well that the job must begin by pain-accustomed pens. Those writers who make mistakes and reveal the identity of intermediaries must be labelled as "uncommitted" and "against theocracy and jurisprudence." Pens of those who for the past 10 years have overtly fought against discord must be taken away from them so that they can not poke at the hidden discord.

Hands of those who balk at giving up their pens as wages for intermediaries must be broken even though, during the past decade, these pens have been in the service of the revolution and Islam and in relentless struggle against internal and external enemies and their colorful array of conspiracies without any expectation of rewards.

Intermediaries are much too clever to reveal their faces. This is where those who are not familiar with their inauspicious goals are used by them. Their tongues are utilized to suppress those who reveal and break the pain-accustomed pens and silence, the voices in the throats. Regret and a hundred more regrets that intermediaries—with the pretense of supporting the noble ones who have sustained the most freedom of the pen, ideas, propagation of thoughts and opposing points of views—commit such monstruous treason.

It is a pity that during the anniversary of the first blissful decade of the revolution—that its biggest gift to this nation has been freedom and human generosity—intermediaries dare to scream at freedom in the name of the revolution: " Break the pens so that the idol of political brockerage may not break." "Hold your breath so that intermediaries can go unrecognized." "Choke your cries so that intermediaries may not be disgraced." "Censor the press so that intermediaries can prevent the implementation of the Charter of Brotherhood." "Butcher the revolution on the counter of the shop of 'painless well-to-do's' so that 'leeches' can suck the blood of the people more easily."

This is not the cry of the revolution. It is the cry of the sworn enemies of the revolution. Are pens going to finally surrender to this inauspicious cry? It all depends on the efforts of pain-accustomed children of the revolution.

* Imam Warns 'Believers'

WA194143989 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 28 Nov 88 p 11

[Text] In the text of the imam's latest guidelines to Prime Minister Engineer Musavi exists a delicate point which is very much suited for pondering. The imam, in a part of this message, points out the attempts of some spiteful people who, in the framework of rhetorics and raising the level of expectation, wish to create suspision in people toward officials. While attesting to the deviating nature of these spiteful people's rhetoric, the imam adds this sentence:

"Of course these words are only notices given to believers. Otherwise, the loyal and revolutionary people of our country are willing to wait and sacrifice much more in order to achieve self-sufficiency and true independence. I am certain that the Iranian nation will not, even for a moment, trade its independence and honor for living a thousand years in a luxury and comfort dependent on foreigners."

In this passage of the imam's writing, the word "believers" has a very special place. The fact that after the word "believers" the phrase "loyal and revolutionary people" has been added makes it obvious that "believers" are certain special people for whom the imam sees a special role in society. It is obviously the imam's assertion that "loyal and revolutionary people" are also believers but the "believers" mentioned in this passage are not the people in general.

Therefore, the question that remains with regards to this passage is: What does the imam mean by "believers?" And the next question is: Why does the imam feel he should "remind" these people? He has separated the rest of the

people [from these]
expressed his confi] by inserting "otherwise." He has also
and be patient and dence that people are ready to sacrifice
independence and d will not exchange a moment of their
luxury and blessing honor for a thousand years of living in
gs dependent upon foreigners.

In order to find an
imam's message nswers to these questions, a fact in the
there are three gro must be noted. In our present society
role is that of gu oups of people: first, the group whose
second group con idance and people follow them; the
inspired in their nsists of people in general who are
giously by the first way of living, intellectually and reli-
spiteful agents wh group; the third group is composed of
behavior and pois who, on one hand, with their Satanic
lic's opinion and, sonous assertions try to taint the pub-
thinking of the firs on the other hand, contaminate the
tant role of leader st group thus influencing their impor-
direction of fulfill rship and dragging the society in the
people are referred lling their spiteful objectives. These
the honorable lead d to—in the Charter of Brotherhood of
aries." The imam der of the revolution—as "intermedi-
diaries—whose job says this about them: Those interme-
opposing faction—b is to assert pessimism towards the
—must be avoided.

As is evident from
exist in both of the m this sentence, first, intermediaries
in our society. And e present factional schools of thought
aries to go after the d, second, it is the work of intermedi-
contaminate their e key people of the factions and try to
fore, the most impo thoughts with their assertions. There-
who have a role an ortant prey of intermediaries are those
whose words peop nd influence in the society and upon
those who are refe ple count heavily. That is precisely
The learned and cl erred to by the imam as "believers."
officials, Majlis dep lergy, Friday prayer leaders, high-level
those who are trus puties, newspaper proprietors, and all
personification of sted by people are the most obvious
who are targets of i "believers." It is precisely these people
further their own g intermediaries' assertions in order to
goals and objectives.

The answer to the n
explanation. If inte next question is clarified with the same
thoughts of the, so termediaries succeed to influence the
have indeed achiev to speak, elders of the tribe then they
for them to work g ved their objective and there is no need
this reason that the on the public's opinion. It is exactly for
and discard the ass e "elders of the tribe" should be vigilant
ssertions of intermediaries.

If they do this, cer
from spiteful desir rtainly the public will also be protected
absence of this vigi ires of intermediaries. However, in the
to influence the "e gilance, the more intermediaries are able
saying, the believer elders of the tribe"—or, per the imam's
dering and taintin rs—the more they will succeed in mean-
against responsible ng the people's opinion and turn them
this reason that a re le officials and public servants. It is for
otherwise "loyal a reminder should be given to "believers"
achieve true indepe and revolutionary people in order to
"are ready to sacri pendence and self-sufficiency." Any way,
rifice and be patient."

This is only a gist of the subject and believers must be able to guess the full story from this brief. It is appropriate for us to add that the recent endorsement of the prime minister by the imam was, on one hand, in support of the regime of the Islamic Republic—which is and has been under attack by enemies. It is, on the other hand, an endorsement of "piety", "commitment," and "wisdom," which are special characteristics that the imam has emphasized—and endorsed the prime minister for possessing them—in order to neutralize all evil conspiracies of "intermediaries"—which started immediately after the announcement of the Charter of Brotherhood—who by way of heavy investments passed messages and said that so and so has been replace by so and so, etc....

The endorsement of the imam was indeed a hard slap in the face of "intermediaries" who have no religion, no honor, and no conscience. They are evil agents with ulterior motives who believe that the "end justifies the means" and by all means will smash those who are not allied with them.

It is not surprising for intermediaries to spread such poisonous assertions. It is, however, amazing that the same people who for the past 7 years have been familiar with lies and accusations of these spiteful people and, although witness their disgrace, are still being influenced by them and believe their lies! The imam's reminder to "believers" is for them to recognize "intermediaries" and "self-interested persons" and not to fall under their influence. "Intermediaries" do not appear with horns and stingers (which is in their nature). They appear very neat, with worry beads, prayer rugs, and some "cash", exactly like Satan!

May God grant our dear imam long life for he is the one who, as always at the right time, acts to neutralize conspiracies, reveals the true nature of intermediaries, and cleanses the revolution of impurities. As we have the imam's blessings and heed his guidance, even America can not do anything in opposition to the Islamic Republic, let alone its intermediaries.

* Articles Show 'Disrespect'

WA194167789 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 30 Nov 88 pp 2, 11

[Text] On Sunday and Monday, 27 and 28 November, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper printed two articles titled "Pens" and "Believers" which were full of abusive language toward some fictitious people referred to as "intermediaries." In this regard it is important to note the following:

1. The 13 November issue of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper contained an article titled "Letter" which was, apparently, in objection to statements of a renowned political and religious personality of the country and disrespect to him. In this connection, a letter signed by over 70 Majlis deputies was published—in

opposition to this modus operandi of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper—and some reactions were demonstrated in certain public circles such as the Tehran and Esfahan bazaars.

The questions that arise are these: Is the printing of disrespectful and accusatory articles in response to these objections? Are these "intermediaries" those Majlis deputies and those groups of people who did not wish this wave of disrespect and incivility to escalate? Or, perhaps, the writer of these articles considers these people—some political figures among them—to be stupid and considers his own view to be superior to theirs?! If this is the case, then, it is the third mistake. The first mistake was writing a disrespectful article in opposition to the views of a politico-religious personality of this country.

The second mistake was writing the articles titled "Pens" and "Believers" against those who opposed this "anti-freedom" and "destructive-to-the-regime" acts by the writer of these articles published in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper. And the third mistake was "breaking the boundaries of respect for 'Pen' and 'Believer'" only because society, regime, and possibilities have afforded these people the opportunity to write publicly. In regards to the actions of RESALAT newspaper it must be said that this newspaper—without taking any position—merely reflected the views of a group of people and Majlis deputies. This was our "godly prophetic mission"—as a small part of the press in this country—to report the "news" without stating "our own position."

2. In the "Pens" article it is said: Break the pen, smother the cry, do not write about lootings, do not write about extollations, and other such interpretations. It must be asked who has suggested such things to that newspaper?! Have officials of the Islamic Republic said such things? Have those groups of [Majlis] deputies and people protesting the disrespectful articles said this? Did that great person, who has been repeatedly insulted, advise silence?

In fact, it may be said that this newspaper has been told not to accuse a politico-religious authority of unawareness of the situation, of having misleading information, and of lack of knowledge of the issues when he criticizes an executive official. The reason being that it is not only the demonstration of lack of respect toward that authority but also implementation of censorship by way of writing and controlling the weapons of press and propaganda.

Objectors tell you to respect "pens and believers." But, apparently, those reminders were not only ineffective in limiting the movements of pen on paper for that newspaper but also it seems that the process of breaking the boundaries of respect persists.

3. What is apparently more emphasized in the "Pens" article is, implicitly, a kind of defending the "freedom of pen." However, in fact, it is the assertion of the point that various objections to printing this article are a blow against the principle of freedom of pen and implementation of censorship with specific motives in order to achieve specific goals.

It should be asked of the editorial writer of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: What is the freedom of pen for? What is the freedom of speech for? Are the cries for freedom of pen and anti-censorship by that newspaper self-serving and for the sake of their own editorial writer? Or are they for the purpose of reflecting the views of the most distinguished politico-religious dignitaries who are more concerned than anyone for Islam and the fate of the regime?

Is it not a kind of political hullabaloo to impose a kind of transparent censorship in the society by writing such disrespectful articles to the extent that even politicians are forced to remain silent in order to protect their name and reputation?! Are the "cries of revelation and warning" to finally surrender to these journalistic disrespects and "evil pens?" Is it freedom of pen to shout at freedom of views and thoughts under the revolutionary guise? In freedom no one is more deserving than another, but in censorship the one who travels on the road of profanity is more deserving than others.

4. The problem with these two articles is not that they were written merely as a result of anger, vengefulness, attempts to censor by being disrespectful, incorrect claims with regard to press censorship in the areas mentioned in those articles, or attacking a fictitious enemy who is not clearly pictured. The mistake that has been committed is interpreting the statements of the imam and speaking for him! The imam has shown that in the clash of views and thoughts he is completely frank in speaking and wherever it has been necessary he has spoken directly and clearly.

Where he has not done this has been with the best interest of the regime and the Islamic society in mind. Then, with whose authorization have the imam's sayings been repeatedly related to a person, and this used as a weapon for self-censorship and imposing of personal views? You introduce these so-called intermediaries and do not attack your fictitious enemies in order to prevent these attacks to encompass the believers.

You can write what intermediaries are trying to impose and the appearance of their talks and inform the influential and political figures about them. Do not attack "characters" and "words" by using the imam's statements. Is the imam happy to see that by the use of his statements and your unjust assertions the leaders of the revolution are being butchered on the counter of propaganda and press in the interest of a person or group? In principle, it should be asked if you qualify to be recognized as the authority on "understanding?" From where does the assertion come that you are more qualified in recognizing "intermediaries" than political figures of this country?

Then it is most suited that you—without exerting pressure on believers by way of pen and relating your own views to the imam and creating censorship by threatening people with perception—present your issues with evidence and proof and write about leeches and lootings here and there in the country and in the depth of governmental organs and institutions and in the corners of trading and economic bazaars. Point out these "political intermediaries" so that your statements are substantiated and to prevent your articles from becoming "abuses against believers."

5. From the wording of the "Pens" article it may be deduced that JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper has tried to say that this article was not disrespectful toward that distinguished authority—as the 70 Majlis deputies and some groups of people have claimed. And, also, this movement has been the result of evil deeds of "intermediaries" while Majlis deputies and common people have been deluded and made to distrust JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper and the writer of the "Letter" article. However, all that was woven has unraveled! The "Believers" article stated all the same view points as the "Letter" article! Then what is it that you have attacked?

In the "Letter" article you made certain unjust accusations against a knowledgeable and political person. Then in the "Believers" article you used the imam's statements to repeat the same accusations. If, according to you, "political intermediaries" have publicized your views regarding that distinguished person, then to what are you objecting!? And if you do not accept that—in the "Letter" article—you have made the assertions of "lack of clear understanding of the situation in the country," "being under induction," "lack of adequate information," and "incorrect judgment" to that distinguished person. Then why have you repeated the same thing, in a different way, in the "Believers" article!?

Then, indeed, "intermediaries"—who are allied with "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper"—have publicized your true views that are reflected in the "Letter" and "Believers" articles!

In conclusion, we tell that newspaper and its editorial writer to tell and write about intermediaries, lootings, thieveries, inhumanities, lies, modern hypocrisies, and leeches, but do not declare war on "believers" by using "pens" and maintain the respect of "pen and believer" together and by way of each.

* Khamene'i's Response

WA194151089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Dec 88 p 2

[Text] In a gathering of the clergy from Tehran Province, held last Thursday in the Martyr Motahari school the president addressed many questions posed by the participating clergy who sought the latest information regarding the current affair of the country and issues of the region.

In the beginning, Mr Khamene'i was asked to comment about JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper's disrespectful article toward a distinguished person who is an authority and a great politician of the regime. He responded: Of course I condemn this act and have, on many occasions, advised the officials in charge of the newspaper on these matters. However, the person holding the rights of publication is responsible only within the framework of determining the guidelines. Therefore, considering that I am only the holder of the rights of publication of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper, I am responsible only within the boundaries of giving reminders, notices, and determining guidelines. Full responsibility for what is written in the newspaper is with the managing director and he alone is a legal entity.

* Montazeri Comments on Political Executions

* Letter to Khomeyni

WA194178889 Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian 21 Mar 89 p 4

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To his eminence Ayatollah ol-Ozma Imam Khomeyni, may he have a long life:

My greetings and salutations to you. Regarding your recent order to execute the imprisoned hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], the execution of those arrested in the recent event is acceptable to the society and the nation and it apparently does not have an adverse effect, but the execution of those imprisoned before:

1. Will under the present circumstances be interpreted as revenge.

2. Will cause grief and anguish to many of the religious families who believe in the revolution.

3. Many of them are not supportive [of Mojahedin-e Khalq] but some of the excessive officials deal with them as if they were.

4. Under present circumstances, when under the pressures and recent attacks by Saddam and the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] we have assumed the position of being oppressed in the world and many of the mass media and personalities defend us, it is not to the advantage of the system and you to suddenly have adverse publicity start against us.

5. Executing individuals who were not condemned to die by judicial decisions without any reason or new activities is ignoring all judicial measures and decisions and cannot have a good reaction.

6. Our prosecuting, judicial, and intelligence officials are not beyond errors. They can make mistakes and are subject to influence. Many innocent and barely guilty individuals will be executed as a result of your recent order. In important affairs, probability is advisable.

7. We have not profited thus far from the killings and executions other than to increase adverse propaganda against ourselves and make the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] and the anti-revolution more attractive. It is proper to act with compassion and kindness for a while because it will cause many to be attracted [to us].

8. If you insist on your ways, at least let the basis for action be the consensus of the judge, the prosecutor, and the intelligence official, not the majority. Exclude women and especially ...women. At any rate, the execution of several thousand people in a few days cannot have a good reaction and cannot be devoid of mistakes. Many of the pious judges were disturbed [by this] and it is appropriate to contemplate upon this noble saying of the prophet: "The prophet of God said: 'Ward off punishments of Muslims when you hear of them. If there is a way out, avoid this path [of punishment]. The imam may be mistaken... Indeed he may be mistaken in the penalty.'"

May God bestow peace and long life upon you.

Dated 16 Dhu-al-Hija corresponding to 31 July 1988, stamp and signature.

* Letter to Judicial Officials

WA194160089 Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM in Persian21 Mar 89 p 5

[Text] In the name of God. Addressed to: Mr Neyri, judge; Mr Eshraqi, prosecutor; Mr Ra'isi, deputy prosecutor; Mr. Purmohammadi, intelligence representative in Evin [prison] regarding imam's order:

1. I have suffered by the hypocrites more than anyone of you both in prison and outside prison. They are the ones who killed my child. If it is a question of taking revenge, I am more justified to pursue it, but I take the good of Islam, the revolution, the country and the honor of the rule of the jurisconsult and the Islamic government into consideration. I consider the judgement of posterity and history.

2. The executions of this type of prisoners and POW's no doubt in the long run are to their [Mojahedin-e Khalq's] advantage and the world will condemn us and will encourage their armed struggle. Combatting thoughts and ideas through killing are wrong.

3. Observe the conduct of the prophet toward his enemies in the conquest of Mecca and the Hawazin war. The prophet dealt with them with forgiveness and leniency which earned him the surname "mercy to the world" from God. Observe the conduct of Amir al-Mo'menin with the people of Jamal after their defeat.

4. Many [prisoners] come to agree because of the [decent] conduct of the investigators and prison guards, otherwise they would be [in] flexible.

5. The fact that some prisoners, as soon as we free them, go and join the hypocrites is not proof they are [true] combatants and insurgents. Even Amir al-Mo'menin did not take reprisal from Ibn Muldjam [who made an attempt on his life] before the crime although he himself said that he [Ibn Muldjam] was his murderer.

6. Conviction does not make an individual a combatant or an insurgent and the assumed apostasy of the leaders is not the apostasy order of the sympathizers.

7. Judgment and sentence should be made in a healthy environment and be free of emotions (the judge should not pass judgment when angry). Currently with slogans and provocations our social atmosphere is very unhealthy. We are bothered by the crimes of the hypocrites in the West and we kill the POW's. Their executions without any new activities question all the judges and all the passed judgments. On what grounds do you execute those not condemned to be executed? Now you have cut off visitation rights and telephone calls but what answer will you give to the families tomorrow?

8. I think more than anyone else about the honor of imam and the rule of the jurisconsult. I do not know how this has been communicated to him [Khomeyni]. All of our religious discussions on caution regarding blood and wealth were useless.

9. I saw several of the wise judges upset and displeased. They complained about the way the sentence was carried out. They complained about the excessiveness and mentioned many examples of execution sentences without any cause.

10. Finally, the Mojahedin-e Khalq [movement] are not people, it is a way of thought. It is a certain logic. A false logic should be answered with a true logic, it cannot be resolved by killing. It will only propagate this way. May God grant you success.

H. M. [Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri]

Nepal

Foreign Minister Views Trade Dispute With India

BK1904063189 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 19 Apr 89

[By Yves de Saint Jacob]

[Text] Kathmandu, April 19 (AFP)—Nepalese Foreign Minister Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya favours a "step by step approach" to end trade and transit disputes with India, which could include a meeting between King Birendra and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Mr. Upadhyaya said in an interview here Wednesday [19 April] that the first step would be "to arrest the downward movement" in bilateral ties, to be followed by talks initially at the level of senior officials and then ministers.

If some problems still remained, the two neighbouring countries could go for a meeting of their leaders, the minister told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"You cannot solve the problem without negotiations," he said. "We are eager to conclude an agreement with India as soon as possible and we are ready to look into the entire gamut of our relations." But Nepal was not seeking any privilege from its giant southern neighbour and Kathmandu would in future treat Indian goods on a par with others, he added.

India shut down 13 of the 15 checkpoints on its border with Nepal following the expiry March 23 of a 1978 trade and transit agreement, leading to shortages of essential commodities in this land-locked Himalayan kingdom. New Delhi has said it wants a common treaty to govern trade and transit, but Kathmandu insists that the two subjects should be dealt with separately.

Mr. Upadhyaya said Nepal, which is bound to India by a 1950 friendship and cooperation treaty, had not expected New Delhi to react so strongly after the expiry of the trade and transit treaty. "Problems are not on our side," he said, referring to the restriction on Indian exports to Nepal. "We were not anticipating such a move from a friendly country. It came as a jolt to us."

He added: "The first priority is to arrest the downward movement in our bilateral relationship. Then let us both make the list of all our grievances and let us talk item by item. First, it can be done at senior official level, then at a political level between the Indian foreign minister and myself."

"We have to sort out a mutual accommodation," Mr. Upadhyaya said. "It may take months or it may take days. I think most of the problems can be solved at my level, at the ministerial level. Suppose something (still) remains to be sorted out, then a meeting of the two supreme leaders, who can iron it out, can be arranged."

"There are some indications that India is ready to start talks at official level but no date has been fixed yet," Mr. Upadhyaya said. "As for us, we are ready to start negotiations tomorrow. The Nepalese official delegation may leave Kathmandu as soon as New Delhi fixed the date for the negotiations on the whole gamut of Nepal-India relationship," he added. The minister said Nepal was waiting for India to fix a date for negotiations aimed "at improving our relationship". But as far as bilateral economic and trade relations were concerned, Mr. Upadhyaya said: "Nepal is not seeking any privilege from India and Indian goods will have no more privilege in Nepal."

"All our trade partners will be treated on an equal footing," he said. "Nepal does not have any specific new trade partners in mind. Everything will be opened to the traders considering the best commercial offers."

Nepal responded to the virtual trade blockade by India by announcing April 11 cuts in duties on several categories of imports from countries other than India. It added that it would impose additional customs duties on some Indian goods.

Mr. Upadhyaya referred to these measures, but added that if Nepalese traders "can (still) buy from India, it is very welcome." "Trade with India can go up because of the lesser transportation cost," he added. "We will treat all our partners the same way from now on and it is very difficult to say that we will have less trade with India."

Mr. Gandhi Tuesday said the fate of the trade and transit treaty was dependent on Nepal, adding that Nepal-bound goods were passing through Indian territory even after its expiry. But the closing down of the 13 checkpoints by India has led to shortages of such items as fuel, medicines and salt across Nepal.

'One Treaty of Transit' Sought

BK1604031089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Nepal has expressed its readiness to have one treaty of transit with India. The chief spokesman of the Nepalese Government told newsmen in Kathmandu yesterday that whereas transit is the permanent need of any landlocked country, trade is a matter of periodic bilateral convenience. Reacting to the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs spokesman issued recently, the Nepalese spokesman said that his country is always willing to discuss and negotiate any issue between the two countries, including the specific issue of trade and transit.

India Permits Entry of Third-Country Goods

BK1604083089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0702 GMT 16 Apr 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Apr 16 (AFP)—India has allowed goods imported from third countries to enter Nepal through two border checkpoints which have remained open following a trade dispute between the two countries, official sources here said Sunday [16 April]. The sources said the goods, from Singapore, Japan and China, entered Nepal Saturday from Jogbani, about 280 kilometres (178 miles) south-east of here, and Raxaul, 190 kilometres (118 miles) south of Kathmandu. Jogbani and Raxaul are the only two checkpoints still operational on the Indo-Nepal border, after New Delhi shut down 13 others following the expiry of a 1978 trade and transit treaty on March 23.

The goods that entered Nepal Saturday included cement, iron wire, polythene granules, car batteries, hypodermic needles, machinery parts, wool, chemicals, soyabean, wax, bitumen, vegetable oil, netted wire and tyres. The closure of the checkpoints has led to shortages of essential commodities in this landlocked Himalayan kingdom bordering India and China, most of whose imported goods have hitherto come through India.

Official sources said Indian chemicals used in hide processing also were allowed to cross into Nepal Saturday, adding that other Indian goods which have entered the country since March 23 include cooking gas, newsprint and 6,485 bags of salt, all of which had been paid for in advance. No other essential goods have been permitted to enter Nepal since then, the sources said.

India wants a single pact to govern trade and transit with Nepal, while Kathmandu says they are separate subjects and should be dealt with accordingly. The two countries signed a friendship and cooperation treaty in 1950.

Nepalese Students Protest Indian Trade Blockade
BK1704114289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1132 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] Dhaka, April 17 (AFP)—Some 70 Nepalese students staged a peaceful rally outside the Indian High Commission (embassy) here Monday to protest New Delhi's trade blockade of their country. The students marched silently from the Dhaka University campus to the embassy, a leader of the Nepali Students Association which organised the protest said.

The students, carrying banners which read "Stop Economic Blockade, Expansionism," submitted a memorandum to an Indian diplomat, [word indistinct]. A high commission spokesman said the memo would be sent to New Delhi.

Landlocked Nepal has been hit by shortages of essential commodities following a trade and transit dispute with India, which last month closed down 13 of the 15 checkpoints on its border with the Himalayan kingdom. India wants a single pact to govern trade and transit with Nepal, which says they are separate subjects and should be dealt with accordingly.

Government Doubles Tourist Visa Extension Fee
BK1704090689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 89

[Text] The Nepalese Government has doubled the amount to be paid by foreign tourists for extension of their visa. They will now have to prove that they exchange U.S. $10 or an equivalent amount of convertible foreign currency into Nepalese rupees for each day of extension of their visa.

Pakistan

More on Alleged Shutdown of Kahuta Nuclear Plant
BK1904022089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0004 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Islamabad, April 19 (AFP)—The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has rejected as "baseless" the opposition's charge of ordering a closure of the country's major nuclear installation to allegedly appease the United States and India.

Iqbal Ahmad Khan, secretary-general of the former Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo's Pakistan Muslim League, Monday [17 April] charged that Ms. Bhutto had ordered the shutdown of the country's biggest uranium enrichment plant at Kahuta near here amid preparations for the prime minister's U.S. visit in June. Mr. Khan claimed that the step was taken against the advice of the defence planners in view of Washington's opposition to the country's controversial nuclear programme and India's allegations that Pakistan is going nuclear.

A government spokesman refuting the allegation here Tuesday described the report as "totally false and unfounded." "The Kahuta plant is functioning normally," he said adding that "it has nothing to do with the pleasure or displeasure of any foreign country." Its operation was not subject to the wishes of the defence planners, he stressed.

Bomb Explosion on Bus Injures 16 in Karachi
BK1904090689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 19 Apr 89

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, April 19 (AFP)—At least 16 people were injured here Wednesday when a homemade explosive went off in a public bus during peak hours in the city centre, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported. Explosives experts said the homemade paper-wrapped cracker stuffed with nails weighed about 400 grams (one pound) and was being carried by an unidentified passenger. The injured were rushed to hospital.

Observers said the incident could be the prelude to a new wave of violence in this port city in southern Sind Province where ethnic clashes between Urdu-speaking Muhajirs, who migrated from India to Pakistan in 1947, Punjabi and Pushtu-speaking settlers from the north and local Sindhis has claimed more than 800 lives in the past three years.

Sri Lanka

Government Praises LTTE Peace Talks Message
BK1804104889 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1022 GMT 18 Apr 89

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 18 Apr (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa received at midnight yesterday a message accrediting the head of the political wing of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], Anton Balasingham, as its representative to discuss and make necessary arrangements for a dialogue with the Sri Lankan Government.

A government communique issued this afternoon states that the secretary to the president, K.H.J. Wijedasa will now be making the necessary arrangements in consultation with Mr. Balasingham.

The following is the text of the government communique:

"The LTTE has accredited Mr. Anton Balasingham as its representative to discuss and make necessary arrangements for the dialogue with the Government of Sri Lanka. The message from the LTTE reached h.e. the president at midnight yesterday (Monday). Mr. K.H.J. Wijedasa secretary to h.e. the president stated that he will now be making the necessary arrangements in consultation with Mr. Balasingham."

President Premadasa Sunday accepted an offer made by the political wing of the LTTE to hold peace talks and asked that an accredited representative be nominated by the LTTE to discuss the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka.

Secretary to the President K.H.J. Wijedasa said in a message to the head of the political wing of the LTTE, Anton Balasingham, "your message to have a dialogue with his excellency the president of Sri Lanka is very much appreciated. His excellency has instructed me to request you to nominate an accredited representative to discuss the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue anywhere in Sri Lanka."

President Premadasa's message was sent less than 12 hours after receiving an open letter from the LTTE which said it was accepting his open invitation for talks and hoped he would make the necessary arrangements to facilitate a dialogue. The LTTE made no conditions to commence talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

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